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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

ON THE REGULATIONS OF ITALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.*

BY COUNT UGO BALZANI, KEEPER OF THE MSS. IN THE
BIBLIOTECA VITTORIO EMANUELE, ROME.

FOR those who spend their lives in libraries, and in efforts to render them more complete and serviceable, it is always useful to observe what is being done in other countries; and I say this with the more conviction, since I feel that I have learnt perhaps as much during my sojourn among you, and from the observations I have made respecting the English libraries, as from my good fortune in being called to assist in the foundation of the Vittorio Emanuele Library, which, although in the third year of its existence, is already in many respects the most important institution of its kind in Italy. I believe it to be all the more useful to give a sketch of the rules by which the Italian libraries are managed, because, being intended for all the government libraries, it was necessary in compiling them to take into account not only the demands of modern knowledge, but also the complex conditions of various and numerous libraries, different from each other and often very ancient and full of historical traditions. These regulations, which were a considerable modification of all former ones, were decreed in the beginning of 1876 (20th Jan. and 13th Mar.),

when the portfolio of Public Instruction was still in the hands of Signor Ruggero Bonghi, to whom Italy owes many valuable institutions, and not least among them the Vittorio Emanuele Library and the Museums of the Collegio Romano.† The libraries under the management of the Minister of Public Instruction may be divided into two sections, according as they form in themselves independent institutions, or merely form part of some other institution, to which they are joined for educational purposes.

The independent libraries, which are called *National*, are the libraries of Florence, Naples, Turin, Palermo,‡ the Vittorio Emanuele of Rome, the Braidense of Milan and the Marciana of Venice.

The libraries attached to other institutions are:

1. Those of the first class Universities: Bologna, Naples, Padua, Pavia, Pisa and Rome.
2. Those of the Universities of the second class: Cagliari, Catania, Genoa, Messina, Modena, Parma and Sassari.
3. Those of the Academies and Institutions of Fine Arts and Sciences; but these last, although included among the govern-

of the opening of these institutions, in presence of King Humbert, then Prince of Piedmont.

‡ The Turin and Palermo Libraries are really University Libraries, but on account of their importance they have been placed on an independent footing, and are called *National*.

* Read at the May meeting of the L. A. U. K.
† With regard to these institutions I may be permitted to draw attention to the important speech of the ex-minister Bonghi, entitled "*Collegio Romano. La Biblioteca Vittorio Emanuele e i Musei.*" *Roma, 1876*. This speech was pronounced the day

ment establishments, are ruled by special and individual laws, and do not call for our present attention.

Besides these there are libraries now under government control which may in time be handed over to the provinces or the communes, should they be ready to guarantee their maintenance and improvement; and in like manner, the government, should it appear desirable and should the province or the commune request it, can at any time assume the administration of libraries hitherto in the hands of the local authorities.

After this short summary of the general condition and the principal divisions of the Italian libraries as laid down in the regulations, I now proceed to put before you as briefly as possible those rules relating to their internal arrangement which seem to me of chief interest. And to begin with that which is regarded as the great problem, every library must, according to the regulation, possess both for printed books and for manuscripts:

1. A general inventory.
2. An alphabetical catalogue.
3. A subject catalogue.

The general inventory of books, as well as that of mss., registers all the works according to their places in the library. As to the manner of compiling the other two catalogues there is no precise rule, and there is a certain liberty left to the directors of the libraries, with the sole condition that the principle acted upon in each library should be clearly stated at the beginning of each catalogue or inventory, and that, once determined upon, they should not be changed without the consent of the Minister. Some of the libraries do not yet possess the complete series of catalogues, although in all—more or less and according to their various means—there is every effort being made to reach the difficult ideal held up to them. Those libraries which have already compiled

the afore-mentioned inventories and catalogues of mss. and printed books are directed to compile separately special indexes of (a) parchments, (b) autographs, (c) illuminated mss., (d) incunabula, (e) bibliographical rarities, (f) drawings and engravings, (g) portulans and geographical maps, (h) music. The librarian who finds himself in a position to begin these indexes is to give the preference to the most numerous and important collections. When these catalogues are ready, the Minister of Public Instruction will make arrangements for their being printed, as also for the printing of the subject catalogue of the mss.

Besides these catalogues, the regulations provide for the keeping of other smaller registers; but these, as well as other details with regard to the internal discipline of the libraries, as they do not possess a special interest, I need not here dwell upon. It is more important to indicate the general outlines laid down for the acquisition of books. The endowments made by the government are applied to the following objects:

1. Maintenance, furnishing, lighting, etc.
2. Binding of books.
3. Acquisition of books.

This last is naturally the most important point of the three, and the librarians may sometimes be empowered to use for it a part of the sum set aside for the other two. The acquisition of books is made by a committee named by the minister. Of this committee, in the national libraries all, and in the others at least two members of the Council of Direction form part; and of this Council I shall have later to speak. The prefect, or, where there is none, one of the librarians, presides at the meeting, and has a double vote. The committee must not in any case exceed the sum set aside by the Minister for that library. In the libraries belonging to the universities, the committee only decides on the expend-

iture of four-tenths of the fund assigned for books, the other six-tenths being left to the decision of a council formed by the different faculties. Having laid down these general rules for the acquisition of books, it is further required that all the libraries under government control shall send in every fortnight a list of the books acquired to the Vittorio Emanuele Library in Rome, which shall then publish every month a complete catalogue of them, divided by subjects. I may incidentally remark that this is a very difficult regulation to carry out in its present form, and is not practically very useful. It might, however, be made very useful if the Ministry, by modifying the 31st article of the regulations, made it merely the basis for printing the titles of all the works acquired in all the Italian libraries.

Much more practicable, on the other hand, are the provisions for exchanging and selling duplicates, and when it becomes possible to carry them out thoroughly, they will no doubt result in great advantage to science as well as to the libraries themselves. The exchange and the sale of duplicates, recognized as such from their *absolute identity*, can be authorized between one library and another, or between libraries and private individuals, by a decision of the Ministry, upon a request from the prefects or librarians. In the Vittorio Emanuele in Rome, it is intended to institute an office for duplicates, to which the other government libraries, and also the communal and provincial ones, shall be able to send their duplicates to facilitate their exchange or their sale.

One of the most important directions in these regulations which has not yet been put in effect, but which it is to be hoped will not be much longer delayed, is the institution of a special course for the education of the future library officials. In the Vittorio Emanuele Library, and in some one other national library if possi-

ble, there will be instituted a course of study in which instruction will be given upon the following subjects: (1) The history and external conditions of books both in early and in later times. (2) Some elementary knowledge of how to define and classify the sciences, and information with regard to the principal and most fundamental works belonging to each. (3) Similar knowledge of the origin and varieties of hand-writing, of the invention and history of printing, and of the state of the book trade. (4) On the general idea and arrangement of a library, the administration of its internal machinery, and of its relations with the public. (5) On the formation of catalogues, and information with regard to the most important works on bibliography. (6) Some knowledge of the working machinery, endowments and actual condition of the principal libraries of Europe, and their history. (7) The elements of paleography.

The instruction in these subjects will be confided to two teachers chosen possibly among the officials of the library itself. The course will last two years, and all the employés, and those belonging to the preparatory grade known as *alunni*, will be admitted to it, as well as such students as inscribe themselves specially. The Minister of Public Instruction will supply a certain number of prizes to be distributed among the *alunni* attending the course.* At the end of the course each student passes an oral and written examination and obtains a diploma. The government will take care that those employés who ask for it, and who belong to other libraries in which there is no special course, should be enabled if possible to attend it.

It is unnecessary to insist on the importance of this institution, and on the

* There is, I believe, no equivalent in English for this name of *alunno* given to those young men who serve a sort of apprenticeship of a year and upwards to the work of the library.

advantage of having a group of young men educated year by year to the profession of librarians, and destined, according to the various qualifications which they exhibit during their special course of study, to those libraries where they may best and most usefully develop them. I hope that the government, conscious of what I may call the hereditary interest which the Italians feel in this matter, will soon find means of opening this school and of ensuring its success. It is impossible to preserve what is good unless we try to make it better, and thus, although the body of employés in our libraries is excellent and generally very hard working, still nothing should be neglected which might serve to improve it.

The following are the categories into which the library employés are divided :

1. The board of directors: Prefects, librarians, under-librarians.
2. Higher employés: Assistant librarians of different grades.
3. Lower employés for the distribution of books: Head-distributor, distributors of different grades.
4. For surveillance and other services: Ushers and attendants.

The employés of the first category form a "Council of Direction" which is presided over by the prefect of the library or the librarian, and it meets to consider the most important measures for the library. In case of a difference of opinion, each member of the council can hand in a paper in defence of his view to the president, to be handed on to the Minister. Only the Director of the library keeps the official correspondence and watches over the conduct of the employés in their official duties; proposes the admission and promotion of *alunni* and of employés, etc.

Two entirely distinct classes of *alunni* are instituted to supply the higher and lower grades of employés. In order to be admitted as *alunno* for the higher posi-

tions, it is necessary at least to have the diploma of the lyceum,—that is, to have been successful in the scholastic course which immediately precedes the university, although one with a university degree would receive the preference. To be admitted as *alunno* for the place of distributor, it is necessary to have the diploma of the gymnasium, which is the scholastic course immediately preceding the lyceum. Promotions in each category (except in the first one) are made alternately for merit and for seniority. Promotions from one category to another are decided by competition. The prefect and librarian are named by royal decree, and chosen without competition among the boards of direction of the various libraries.

And here I conclude this summary of the rules in force in our libraries, having only attempted to give the principal, and leaving out all those details which hardly seemed to me to have a sufficiently general interest. There only remains to be mentioned the second code of regulations to which I alluded in the beginning of this paper; it bears the date of the 13th of March, and is specially concerned with the loan of books. But I have already trespassed too long on your time to do more than note that the persons who, either by virtue of their position or by guarantees given for them, have a right to the loan of books, are exceedingly numerous. This for the studious is a very appreciable advantage, enabling those who have not the time or are otherwise hindered from attending the libraries, to consult books which they could not find elsewhere. The liberality of these regulations goes so far as to allow, in certain special cases, of the loan of rare books, or of mss., and even sometimes permits them to be sent to other countries; but such cases are very rare, and such a permission, which can only be given by the Minister himself, is surrounded by so many precau-

tions as to be both very difficult to obtain and free from risk.

To follow up the statement by a criticism of the strong and the weak points of these rules would not only be tedious—it would be out of place. It is enough for me to express my conviction that, taken as a whole, they are good and—what I consider their great merit—are well adapted to the libraries for which they were compiled, and to the necessity of aiming at a certain unity in the midst of such complex variety as is to be found among the Italian libraries, and indeed among so many other institutions in our country, a fact which surrounds all government with

the greatest difficulties. This explains the reason of many directions which may seem too minute, and leaves room for the hope that at some future time, when some of the present conditions of the country are modified, it will be possible—as it would be desirable—to give the boards of direction of the libraries a greater independence from ministerial authority. In the meantime if this short account should suggest to any of the members of this Association some observation or criticism on the subject, it would, I am sure, be full of interest for all those in Italy who have the welfare of our libraries at heart.

A PROPOSAL FOR MAKING THE CONTINUATION TO POOLE'S INDEX OF USE IN LIBRARY CATALOGUES.*

BY JAS. B. BAILEY, SUB-LIBRARIAN RADCLIFFE LIBRARY, OXFORD.

BY the report of the Committee on Poole's Index in the Proceedings of the Library Conference of 1877, I see that it is Mr. Poole's intention to issue a supplement about every five years; but it has struck me that the utility of this work might be materially increased, if, after the volume itself is once published, we could devise a plan by which the Index might be kept almost, or quite, up to date; and the object of the present paper is to bring a scheme before the Association which will not only help us to do this, but which will, at the same time, enable us to have, with hardly any extra trouble, a complete index to current periodical literature in the card-catalogues of each of our libraries; so that a reader looking in any library index-catalogue for information on a given subject, will find not only what books the library possesses thereon, but also a reference to all the papers that have been published in the

different periodicals on this subject since the issue of "Poole."

In proposing any new scheme which, like this, must be worked on co-operative principles, one is generally met at the start with the objection that librarians have plenty of work to do without undertaking new duties, and I know this is perfectly true; but I hope to be able to prove that the plan now laid before you will in reality lighten rather than increase the librarian's duties. At Oxford, last year, Mr. Harrison drew us up a dismal catalogue of library work, and I would be the last to add another item to that lengthy list.

In some libraries, I believe, it is now usual to catalogue separately the different papers contained in the chief periodical publications of the day, and there can be very little doubt but that many other libraries would gladly follow this most excellent example, were it not that the

* Read at the April meeting of the L. A. U. K.

duties of the librarian do not allow the necessary time for so doing. In fact at the present time a bibliography of any subject is next to useless unless it contain the different papers as well as the separate publications thereon, for often many of the former are quite as important as the latter. But it is almost hopeless attempting to wade through the vast amount of our periodical literature without some such guide as "Poole" and its continuation, and if we are to wait five years for each supplement, it will be tedious work finding out what has been published on any subject when the last issue is three or four years old. It is true that many excellent attempts have been made to help readers in obtaining a knowledge of the contents of the current periodicals and transactions, but these really all relate to some special branch of science, and are not of much use to the general reader. I allude to such publications as the "Zoölogical Record," the "Medical Record," the "Science Index," and the "Index Medicus" of Dr. Billings, which last will be invaluable to all libraries having any medical readers; but useful as these publications are to specialists, they would not in any way clash with such a work as that now proposed, nor could they be used in our card-catalogues.

The suggestion I have to make is this, that every librarian who already does attempt an index to the periodical literature in his library, and every librarian who would do so if he had time, should work together on exactly the same principle as "Poole" itself was done. That is to say, some central authority should be established, and each librarian should undertake to supply slips of the contents of one or more periodicals as the numbers appear, whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly; these slips should then be printed in pages on one side of the paper only, and distributed to the contributing

libraries and offered for sale to the general public. If this could be carried out, it is obvious what a saving it would be to all librarians who already attempt a periodical index-catalogue. Instead of a number of workers, each at the same time being occupied in cataloguing the same periodical, say "Macmillan" or the "Fortnightly," they might all be at different work, and yet at work from which each co-operating library and the public generally would receive direct benefit.

I cannot disguise from myself the fact that it is a very difficult matter to decide who or what the central authority should be; in fact if this were settled, I think the remaining part would be very plain sailing. My own opinion is that the best plan would be to try and come to some arrangement with an already existing publication such as the "Bookseller," in which the slips might be printed under the management of some thoroughly competent and experienced editor.

And here I should like to draw attention to a publication started in November last, and called the "Book-Analyst," but at the outset let me say that I do not hold a brief for the "Book-Analyst," nor do I care where or how the slips are printed. But the entries from the "Book-Analyst" (which may be pasted on cards) suggest that a good deal of the work is being already done, although, I must confess, not in a sufficiently satisfactory manner to enable librarians to adopt it for the purpose advocated in this paper; but the fact that so much has been done by private enterprise, seems to me to be a complete answer to any who think this work impracticable. As still further examples of what can be done by private enterprise in this way, I should like to draw special attention to two publications I have mentioned before, viz., the "Index Medicus," of Dr. Billings and Dr. Fletcher, published in New York, and the "Science Index,"

edited by Mr. Hildebrandt and published in Manchester.

Of the former of these it is quite impossible to speak too highly; the name of Dr. Billings already stands forward as one of the chief of medical bibliographers, and this, his latest work, will add still more to his fame. The editors of the "Index Medicus" propose to record the titles, size, and price of all books published on medicine, surgery, and the collateral branches during the preceding month, arranged in subjects, and, in addition to this, they have undertaken the gigantic task of indexing no less than 571 periodicals entirely relating to medicine, and 236 to be done partly, as they are not purely medical and only occasionally contain papers on that branch of science. At the close of each year we are promised a double index of authors and subjects, so that I think medical readers may now consider themselves better provided for than the rest of mankind. I do not know the number of periodicals indexed by Mr. Poole,* but it can hardly be greater than the total undertaken by Dr. Billings and Dr. Fletcher; and, in the face of such a work as this, I think it is almost cowardly of us to turn our backs upon the fact that we are sadly in want of some such index for general literature.

The other publication is far less ambitious; although called the "Science Index," it only undertakes 41 publications, and some of these only in part. This Index relates only to technology, and not to science in general; it will be of great use because it gives references to editorial articles and to letters in some of the daily papers, which probably would never have been brought under the student's notice were it not for this publication; there are many things not as they should be in the arrangement of the first number, but they probably will be rectified as the work proceeds. I feel I owe an apology for having

gone into details respecting these publications, but I have done so in the hope that the reference to them may prove that, with proper co-operation, an index to our periodical literature made up to date is not an impossibility.

No doubt in such a work as that I now propose, only English periodicals should be attempted; but there is one suggestion I should like to make, and that is that English scientific periodicals might be admitted. In almost all libraries now, science forms a large division, and it seems hardly fair that one portion of the readers should have the privilege of a periodical-index prepared for them, whilst the other portion is left out in the cold. Besides, the scheme would be more likely to be self-supporting if science were admitted, as it would increase the number of subscribers, and scientific librarians and individuals would no doubt help in preparing the material.

I would also propose that bibliographies be indexed under the subject to which they refer. Often, at the end of a book or paper, a list of works used by the author, or bearing on the subject, is appended, and I think it would be most useful to students to be able to see by this index where a bibliography of the special subject upon which they are working may be found. It is very vexing to take pains in making out a list of publications on any subject, and then at the end find that some one has done it all before, that it exists in print under your very nose.

It will be seen from the slips in question that in adopting some such scheme as that proposed, the entries come into the library just ready to be cut out, pasted on the cards, and at once take their place in the library catalogue. The slips are not instanced as specimens of how this index ought to be done. The catch-words should be printed in a thick type; the

*The last published by Mr. Poole schedules 182 periodicals.—EDS. L. J.

titles of the periodicals should be abbreviated to correspond with "Poole," and the reference should be to volume and page, and not to the month of publication. In the Index proposed, the entries would be printed with the subject for the catch-word, so that the slips might be more easily arranged under subjects; but it is obvious that, by taking a duplicate set, they could be arranged under both authors and subjects, in the former case either by underlining the author's name or by writing it on the top of the card.

The great advantage of this plan is that, in addition to being of so much use in our library catalogues, the same material can be used for the continuation to "Poole"; whereas with the present system there are many librarians doing exactly the same work as one another in indexing periodicals, and then at the end of five years the whole of it must be done over again for the Supplement to "Poole." If the sheets were bound up together at the end of each year and indexed, they would form a good annual Supplement; or, again by cutting up a copy of "Poole" and pasting it in skeleton form into vols., the slips might be added as issued, and thus the index would be nearly up to date; and when the annual volumes had so increased that it would be advisable to print a new edition of "Poole" or a supplementary volume, there would be no need of doing all the work over again, but the material would be nearly ready for the printer.

And here I would like to make a suggestion to the committee on Poole's Index, viz., that they should represent to the editors the desirability of printing some copies on one side only, as it could then be so much more easily used for the purposes before named. There need be no risk in a pecuniary sense in doing this if the publishers would state in the advertisements, before the book is ready, at what price they would supply copies

printed on one side, and intimate that they must be subscribed for before printing; so that only the actual number subscribed for would be printed.

If arrangements could be made with some already existing periodical to print the slips as part of its issue, I do not think the question of cost would stand in the way of carrying the work out, as the paper would by this means become an absolute necessity to libraries and library men, and its value would be greatly increased to the public generally, who would, through it, be kept well posted up in what was going on in each branch of literature. To help in this latter the entries should be classified as they are in the "Book-Analyst," so that each reader might find out what was being done in his own department without having to look through a mass of titles uninteresting to him; and this would not in any way interfere with cutting up the slips for use in catalogues. The editorial work of arranging the entries in these classes would not be very great if each contributor had a list of the proposed headings, and sent in his material written on different slips, that is to say, his titles on "Education" on one slip and those on "Biography" on another, and so on; the editor would then only have to see that the entries were under their proper headings, and arrange them alphabetically.

The question of how cross-references are to be managed in a scheme of this sort presents some difficulties; my own impression is that in the printing it would be best not to attempt cross-references at all, but to let each librarian make his own; and for this reason, that there would be so much repetition if a common cross-reference were printed each time it occurred, and it would be quite useless in a catalogue after the first time; in fact, no doubt many of the cross-references that would be required would already exist in

the card-catalogues, and the work of adding the extra ones required would not be very great. Where an article may be fairly looked for under two heads it should be printed under both; *e. g.*, a paper on the Microphone and Telephone ought to be printed under each of those words; so that the slips might, without further trouble, take their place at once in the catalogue under both headings.

In all matters relating to Poole's Index it seems natural to make America headquarters, but if this scheme is ever to be brought into operation, I think, that by having the material printed in America, its utility would be lessened to English librarians because of the delay that must necessarily take place before the printed slips of the matter prepared here could be in the hands of the subscribers in this country. But I cannot see why this should prevent co-operation with our American friends. Would it not be possible to come to some arrangement by which the English and American slips could be exchanged? Suppose we have the slips of the contents of our English periodicals printed here and send proofs to the authorities superintending the work in America and *vice versa*. I am aware

that one great objection to this is that it necessitates printing the same matter twice, and this could be obviated if the English and American Associations could come to some understanding by which the sheets might be printed in a uniform manner here and in America, and a certain number exchanged every issue; for instance, we give the Americans 1000 copies of our sheets every month, they in return sending 1000 of theirs, the sheets so received in each case to be incorporated in the next issue of whatever form the publication takes. By this means we should get the index to English periodicals made up to date, and the American ones within a short time of the receipt of the publications themselves, and in America our friends would have their periodicals indexed right up and the English ones as soon as we could mail the slips to them.

In conclusion, I would only say that I do not pretend to have solved all the difficulties lying in the way of this scheme, but have endeavored to bring before the Association the bare outline of a plan which I believe is practicable, and which, if taken up and supported officially by the Association, might be carried into effect to the great benefit of librarians and readers.

ARRANGEMENT ON THE SHELVES.—SECOND PAPER.

BY MELVIL DEWEY.

IN the first paper (p. 117), we found four systems worthy special consideration, *viz.*, order of size, accession, author's name, and subject. To arrange by titles was impracticable; by dates was of use simply in cases in the nature of volumes or serials, as in arranging an author's works or showing the development of a science. As size and accession were found of use only as modifiers of the main system, we are left to

choose from only two arrangements, *viz.*, by authors' names or by subjects.

IN ORDER OF AUTHORS' NAMES.

This means of course alphabetical order. Several large libraries have used this plan as their main system, and have made it work to their satisfaction. This does not prove that it is a good plan, but simply that it is a possible plan, and that the

librarians who worked it were men endowed with great patience. Such libraries are very rare. I am not aware that any respectable authority mentions as a recognized system the arrangement of the entire library in one alphabet, regardless of subject, order of accession, size or dates. It is without doubt the only system of finding any given book without catalog or index and with only the information generally possessed by readers. In the first paper we noted that it was folly to try to arrange a library by titles or subject-words, though perhaps it might be done as an exception in fiction and biography. No one knows size, date or order of accessions accurately enough to find a book easily in a library arranged in either of these ways, and the ideas of classification are so different that no one would claim that in all cases one could go to even the main class without an index, much less to the individual book in its final classing. The author's name is the only thing well enough known and definite enough to be considered in a self-indexing system. This is the chief argument for the author arrangement. Another of some importance is that all the works of any given author stand together, as they do in an alphabetical author-catalog. Against this advantage, note that for those cases where one is looking up all the works of an author, nearly all catalogs and bibliographies are so arranged, and there is every facility for finding the list, just as the Concordance enables us to find any known verse in the Bible. In fact most consultation is to get all on a given subject and not all by a given author.

The author arrangement is then a positive nuisance. Subjects could not be more thoroly separated from each other, and the maximum of inconvenience is secured. It costs all the labor of intercalation to keep up this author system; disregard of the sizes wastes room and gives the most ragged look to the shelves. The entire library

being in one alphabet brings so many of the same names together that it practically shuts out the ingenious systems of translation into numbers used by Schwartz, Cutter, Edmands and others. Books must then be called for by writing out authors' names and titles, with considerable fullness to guard against mistakes, and the system would not be tolerated by many active librarians. The advantage of having books by the same author together, and of getting books without the aid of indexes, are the two redeeming features of this plan. They are entirely insufficient in any case that I can imagine to compensate for the objections, but as we found in regard to the date, size, and accession arrangements, while unfitted for the primary arrangement of an entire library, this has great merits as a modifier of the main system and will divide the honors with the accession method. Of late years, much attention has been called to the advantages of this use of the alphabetical arrangement by authors, specially by Mr. Schwartz.

IN ORDER OF SUBJECTS.

Examining each of the other systems and finding them unfitted for the primary arrangement, leaves us only the subject-order as practicable. We went backward to reach this result, but it would have been the same had we commenced with this, which alone is suited for the purpose. In fact I believe there are no two opinions among us as to the necessity of adopting the subject-order as the basis of all arrangement. The only question that arises is where to stop dividing by subject. The extreme view is represented by the Fitzpatrick scheme (see p. 41), where each book would be a subject by itself. This is hardly practicable or desirable where two or more books are really on just the same subject.

We take it for granted, without fear of question, that the best arrangement of a

library is that which shows quickest what it contains. What it contains means not the size, binding, date, or authors' names, but what it has on each subject. It would be mere verbiage to point out why it is better to have the scientific books of a library together and separate from the purely literary books. From this to the extreme is only a series of gradual steps with no well-defined place to stop division by subject. We separate science, history, art and literature without a question. We should all think it absurd to mix the books regardless of their relations to each other. But the same reasons apply to the historical library, or to the historical department of a general library, which for our purposes is as distinct a library as the other. Why should all history be tumbled into one miscellaneous series? The historian rebels and insists properly that ancient shall be separate from modern, or that Oriental, European, and American history shall each be by itself. In the next step the student of Europe only, claims his library or department as a distinct whole, and complains if you jumble together all the different countries. He properly insists that you put all English histories together, all French in another place, and so on, so that he may study any one nation without wading thru all the books on the others.

Just here the cataloger explains that these facts are to be found in the catalog, and therefore are not proper arguments for shelf arrangement. I answer that no catalog ever did, ever will, or ever can take the place of the books themselves. The best work is done by seeing the books and by seeing them together. If the library is not so arranged, the student must often go to great trouble to get his books together, where he can see them all at once. If not admitted to the shelves he calls for these books together, and the convenience of service demands that they be found together.

We could carry on the same series of steps till we had each book a subject by itself, except so far as there were other books on exactly the same subject, speaking accurately.

I should be fighting a man of straw to bring forward arguments to show that the ideal arrangement is this minutely classified one, so arranged that going to any book in the collection, the books on either hand and above and below will be those that come nearest to treating the same subject, and that (allowing for the necessary breaks that come here and there) the rule will be "the farther away in location the farther away in subject." We may accept this as the ideal, for there will hardly be any objection except that it is not practicable. We must then confine ourselves to finding how much is practicable.

All my experience and study of this question tends strongly towards close classing on the shelves, tho some authorities advise that only rough classing be admitted on the shelves, leaving the rest to the catalog. Such advice was, however, almost a necessity of the systems of fixed location without indexes to classification, which they all used. The labor would be immense and the system would constantly be breaking down in its sections were we to admit close classing on the shelves without the movable location. This great improvement has been gaining ground rapidly and steadily for the last three years, and as I now recall a large number of instances, I remember only one exception to the rule, that wherever the question has been studied, the decision has been for the movable; and wherever the experiment has been tried, it has succeeded. The one exception while notable had less weight, for there were old prejudices and strongly formed habits to be overcome, and the system fought its own battle against great odds. Of the two systems, fixed vs. mov-

able location, I propose another article, in which I hope to point out clearly the advantages of the latter, and to discuss how far it is desirable and practicable to subdivide subjects on the shelves in both systems.

In summing up the merits of the plans we have been discussing in this article, I shall assume first: That we have the relative location, with a full alphabetical index to the classification used. I then recommend, and shall show why in the next article, quite minute classing by subjects. When this is done we must decide how the books shall be arranged under the final sections. As these sections will contain few books, it is of minor importance which of the three systems we adopt. For the reasons given in the first article, I would consider date only as pertaining to sets or serials, and make its use incidental and exceptional. Size I would use as a modifier of the order adopted, which must be of course either the accession or the author's name. If in accession order, the system described on p. 119 suits me best for sizes. If by author's name, I should try to disregard sizes if possible, putting a dummy in place of the books larger than Q. The object of this variation is that in the accession order one has the number of the book, including size, and by that is enabled to find it just as quickly in its regular size order as in any other. We should then secure the advantage of size without cost. But by authors one will often seek an author directly at the shelves, and while knowing the subject and author's name, he very likely may not know the size without consulting the catalog. If size were regarded as in the accession plan above, he would have to consult all the sizes before he was sure the book was not there. If size was disregarded, as I here recommend, one look in alphabetical place would be definite. The same objection applies to consecutive numbering,

tho I did not mention it on p. 120. I should of course translate the author's name into numbers, on the plan recommended on p. 47, but the same reasons for disregarding size apply with all the more force, for the books are still in almost or quite alphabetical order and would be found much of the time by alphabetical reference without an index.

My choice for the few books in the ultimate sections of close classifications would be accession rather than author order, because it is much the easiest, and I should class so closely that there would be few books to look thru in case any one went to the shelves without the catalog number. In a great library like Harvard, they have till recently got along in some way without any guide more definite than the number of the shelf where the book belonged. (I pray heaven this reference may never be quoted against me as justifying such a system.)

If, however, we used the old-fashioned fixed location, we should be compelled to class much more coarsely on the shelves, and should have vastly more books in each final section. I should then choose the author order (names translated into numbers), because among 100 or more books it would be of great service to find what was wanted without referring to the catalog, and it would be too much trouble to look thru the long random list of the accession arrangement.

To sum up the summing up with a greater show of authority than I have any right to assume: With the movable location, class very closely and arrange in order of accession under the final section, using the size modification given on p. 19. With the fixed location, class as closely as you can with such a handicap, and arrange by author's names, translating into numbers, omitting size distinctions and using dummies for books too large to go on the regular shelves.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

JUNE, 1879.

Communications for the JOURNAL, and all inquiries concerning it, should be addressed to MELVIL DEWEY, 32 Hawley Street, Boston. Also library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances. European matter may be forwarded to the care of H. R. TEDDER, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S. W., London.

Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, P. O. Box 4295, New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.

Exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row, New York.

The JOURNAL addresses itself exclusively to library interests, admitting to its advertising as well as to its reading-matter columns only what concerns the librarian as librarian. It does not undertake to review books unless specially relating to library or bibliographical topics.

The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor always for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in signed articles.

Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of 10 cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.

THE success of the Boston Conference is now absolutely assured, and we take it for granted that every one who can come is coming. It will be an occasion for learning a great deal, and also for such change and rest, in the enjoyment of the excursions and social features, as many a librarian, hard worked in the treadmill of routine, most needs for his recreation. The attractions are set forth in the programme, and even more in the experience of the conferences already held. We would, however, specially urge upon each visitor his duty in making this meeting the best that has yet been held. *Prepare for the meeting as much as possible.* During these last days before starting, keep the Conference in mind, and don't fail to note down the points that occur to you as worth bringing up when you get into the meetings. Note down any bits of information or experience that will be either interesting or profitable to the rest. Include any questions that you wish to submit for answers and discussion. Get your mind as much as possible upon those subjects that will occupy these busy days. Above all else, read up the proceedings of the Philadelphia, New York, London and Oxford meetings, and have clearly and correctly in mind what has been already said and done. It is awkward and embarrassing to take the time of a hall full of people, and find when

you get home that you have been simply repeating previous discussion. It is even more unfortunate to omit mention of good points and profitable ideas, because you think they may or must have been brought up before. Take two or three evenings to read the JOURNAL and the Government Report, as far as they apply to the matters you want to hear discussed at the Conference. It will add greatly to your pleasure and profit and that of the other members. At all events come, and bring as many friends as you can, all as full as possible of the library spirit, and, as well as possible in the time, prepared for the meetings.

One of the most interesting features of the Conference will be the discussion, which promises to be both able and brilliant, on the general subject of fiction in public libraries and the reading of children. There are few points at which librarians touch the public interest more vitally than in the relations of the schools to libraries, and this discussion will doubtless be listened to by an audience much wider than the Conference proper. The training of librarians is likely to be discussed incidentally in the Conference, since so much has recently been said on the subject. Count Balzani's most interesting paper, describing the ideal system (yet in the ideal) of the Italian library administration, is very suggestive on this point, and comes to us most *apropos* for the meeting. It is worth noting that the paper on this subject in our last issue was written before, and independently of, the English discussion.

Mr. Bailey's paper on a periodical continuation of Poole's Index covers a subject which has already received some discussion on the American side of the water. Mr. Bailey writes apparently in ignorance of our *Title-Slip Registry* supplement; on the other hand, no copy of the *Book Analyst*, to which he refers and which seems a closely similar enterprise of independent origin, is known to have reached American bibliographers. The *Title-Slip Registry* suggests how the periodical Poole might be planned, and if an American publication confined itself to American periodicals, while an English one covered the English field, with a mutual arrangement for the supply of subscribers desiring both, the problem would be solved. It was, in fact, some time since proposed to Mr. Poole to issue such a periodical from this office, in similar connection with the JOURNAL, providing the support of the *Title-Slip Registry* by the time of the completion of his Index, justified the experiment. So far, however, librarians have not made general use of the facilities of this kind already afforded them; the support of bibliographical publications from the libraries has been very meagre.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THIRD GENERAL MEETING,

*At Boston, Cambridge, and Plymouth, June 30—
July 3, 1879.*

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

President.

Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University.

Vice-Presidents.

Ainsworth R. Spofford, Library of Congress.

William F. Poole, Public Library, Chicago.

Henry A. Homes, New York State Library, Albany.

John N. Dyer, Mercantile Library, St. Louis.

Coöperation Committee: C. A. Cutter, Librarian Boston Athenæum; Fred. B. Perkins, Boston Public Library; Frederick Jackson, Supt. Newton Free Library.

Finance Committee: W. F. Poole, Public Library, Chicago; Lloyd P. Smith, Library Co., Philadelphia; S. S. Green, Public Library, Worcester.

Secretary: Melvil Dewey.

Treasurer: Frederick Jackson.

Association Offices, 6, 7, and 8, No. 32 Hawley St., Boston.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

On Exchange of duplicates in libraries: John Edmands, I. P. Langworthy, A. M. Knapp.

On Publishers' Title-slips: Justin Winsor, R. R. Bowker, Melvil Dewey.

On the distribution of public documents: J. W. M. Lee, A. R. Spofford, S. S. Green.

On the Continuation of Poole's Indexes: Justin Winsor, W. F. Poole, C. A. Cutter.

On Coöperative Cataloguing: Justin Winsor, W. F. Poole, C. A. Cutter.

On a model Library law: Justin Winsor, W. F. Poole, R. R. Bowker, H. A. Homes, John Edmands.

Committees on the 1879 Meeting.

On Preliminaries: Frederick Jackson, H. A. Homes, R. R. Bowker, J. W. M. Lee, W. T. Peoples.

On Programme: Justin Winsor, W. F. Poole, L. P. Smith, Addison Van Name, John N. Dyer.

On Papers: C. A. Cutter, A. R. Spofford, F. B. Perkins, F. Vinton, S. B. Noyes.

On Reception: George B. Chase, Mellen Chamberlain, Samuel A. Green, John R. Chadwick, Samuel S. Green.

PROGRAMME.

Monday, June 30.—Forenoon.

First session at Boston Medical Library Hall, 19 Boylston place, at 10 o'clock.

President's Address by Justin Winsor, *Librarian of Harvard University.*

Report of the Committee on Reception, George B. Chase, *Chairman.*

Correspondence and Invitations.

Report of Melvil Dewey, *Secretary.*

Report of Frederick Jackson, *Treasurer.*

Report of the Coöperation Committee, Charles A. Cutter, *Chairman.*

Paper on "Classification in Catalogues," by Frederic B. Perkins, *Boston Public Library.*

Paper on "Shelf Classifications," by Charles A. Cutter, *Boston Athenæum.*

Paper on "Indexing," by William I. Fletcher, *Watkinson Library, Hartford.*

Paper on "Library Binding," by F. P. Hathaway, *Foreman of the bindery, Boston Public Library.*

Notes and Queries.—Members may bring forward notices of new practical devices in library management, and ask questions on points of library economy.

* * Notice of such points may be handed to the Secretary at any time, and they will be brought up when intervals of time occur.

Afternoon.

Members will visit the institutions from which invitations have been received, not in a body, but as they may find it convenient:

Massachusetts Historical Society, Tremont street, the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, *President*, and Dr. Samuel A. Green, *Librarian.*

Boston Public Library, Boylston street, William W. Greenough, *President*, and the Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, *Librarian.*

Boston Athenæum, Beacon street, the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, *President*, and Charles A. Cutter, *Librarian.*

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston Athenæum Building, the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, *President*, and Samuel H. Scudder, *Librarian.*

State Library, State House, Beacon street, C. B. Tillinghast, *Librarian.*

Congregational Library, Beacon street, Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, D.D., *Librarian.*

Boston Society of Natural History, Boylston street, Thomas T. Bouvé, *President*, and Edward Burgess, *Librarian.*

New England Historic-Genealogical Society,
Somerset street, the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder,
President, and John Ward Dean, Librarian.

*Evening.**

Mr. George B. Chase, of the Board of Trustees of
the Boston Public Library, will receive the mem-
bers at No. 234 Beacon street, at 8½ o'clock.*

Tuesday, July 1.—Forenoon.

Second session at Boston Medical Library Hall,
at 10 o'clock.

Correspondence.

Paper on "Fiction in Libraries," by Charles
Francis Adams, Jr., of the Board of Trustees of the
Public Library of Quincy, Mass.

Paper on the "Duty of Parents in the Selection
of Reading for the Young," by Mrs. Kate Gannett
Wells, Boston.

Paper on the "School and the Library; their
mutual relations," by W. E. Foster, Public Library,
Providence.

Paper on the "Use of Fiction by School Chil-
dren," by Miss Mary A. Bean, Public Library,
Brookline, Mass.

Paper on the "Reading of School Children," by
Robert C. Metcalf, Master of Wells School, Boston.

Paper on "Sensational Fiction in Public Librar-
ies," by Samuel S. Green, Public Library, Worces-
ter, Mass.

Discussion on the subjects of these papers to be
participated in by the Rev. James Freeman Clarke,
Trustee of the Boston Public Library; the Rev.
Edward E. Hale, Trustee of the Fellows Ath-
nasium; Samuel Eliot, Superintendent of Boston
Public Schools; Prof. Wm. P. Atkinson, Librarian
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Col.
Thomas W. Higginson, Cambridge; Judge Cham-
berlain, Boston Public Library, and others.

Notes and Queries.

Afternoon.

By invitation of His Honor, Frederick O. Prince,
Mayor of Boston, the members will go on an ex-
cursion in the harbor. The steamer "Rose Standish"
will leave Rowe's wharf, near the foot of Summer
street, at three o'clock.

* * Tickets will be distributed at the morning
session.

* The wording of a portion of the programme for the Con-
ference in our last issue was such as to suggest a misappre-
hension. The Association owes the proposed entertainment
on Monday evening to the private courtesy of Mr. G. B.
Chase, who very handsomely offers to the Conference as a
matter of personal hospitality the reception spoken of as
arranged by the Committee.—Eds. L. J.

Evening.

The Trustees of the Boston Museum of Fine
Arts, corner of Huntington avenue and Dart-
mouth street, the Hon. Martin Brimmer, Presi-
dent, and Gen. Charles G. Loring, Curator, will
receive the members at eight o'clock.

* * Tickets will be distributed at the morning
session.

Wednesday, July 2.—Forenoon.

Third session in the Boston Medical Library
Hall, at 10 o'clock.

Correspondence.

Report of the Committee on the Exchanges of
Duplicates in Libraries, by John Edmands, Mercan-
tile Library, Philadelphia.

Report of the Committee on Publishers' Title
Slips, by R. R. Bowker, Library Journal.

Report of the Committee on the Distribution of
Public Documents, by J. W. M. Lee, Mercantile
Library, Baltimore.

Paper on "Ventilation of Library Buildings," by
Dr. David F. Lincoln, Boston.

Paper on "Insect Pests in Libraries," by Dr. H.
A. Hagen, Professor of Entomology in Harvard
University.

Paper on "Spread of Contagious Diseases by
Circulating Libraries," by William F. Poole, Public
Library, Chicago.

The President will open a Discussion on the Con-
struction of Library Buildings, in which architects
and librarians will take part.

Notes and Queries.

Afternoon.

The members will visit Harvard University,
Cambridge. Horse cars leave Bowdoin square
every five minutes. Take any car marked "Har-
vard Square," "Mount Auburn," "Watertown,"
"Broadway," "North Avenue," "Arlington,"
or "Garden Street." The ride will take thirty
minutes.

The members will assemble in Sanders Theatre,
Memorial Hall, at 3 o'clock, and be received by
Charles W. Eliot, President of the University,
and John Langdon Sibley, Librarian Emeritus
of the University.

Visits will be made to the University Library,
Gore Hall, Justin Winsor, Librarian; the Museum
of Comparative Zoölogy, Alexander Agassiz, Cura-
tor, and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology, F.
W. Putnam, Curator.

By invitation of the President and Fellows of
Harvard College, the members will take tea in
Memorial Hall, before returning to Boston.

Evening.

Fourth session at Boston Medical Library Hall, at 8 o'clock.

Correspondence.

Report of Committee on Poole's Index, by William F. Poole, *Public Library, Chicago*.

Report of Committee on Coöperative Cataloguing, by Charles A. Cutter, *Boston Athenæum*.

Report of the Committee on a Model Library Law, with a paper on the subject, by Dr. H. A. Homes, *New York State Library, Albany*.

Paper on "Catalogues of Town Libraries," by James L. Whitney, *Boston Public Library*.

Paper on "A new plan of charging books issued," by J. Schwartz, *Apprentices' Library, New York*.
Unfinished business.

Votes of acknowledgments.

Election of officers.

Thursday, July 3.

The members will visit Plymouth. Special cars will be provided on the train leaving Boston from the Old Colony Railroad Station, Kneeland street, at 8.40 A. M.

Reception at Pilgrim Hall, by the Hon. Thomas Russell, *President of the Pilgrim Society*.

Visits to the Rock upon which the Pilgrims landed; to the Court House, where their earliest records are preserved; to the Burial Hill, to obtain the view; and to the Monument erected to commemorate the Pilgrims.

Dinner at the Samoset House.

Cars leave Plymouth to return to Boston, at 3.40 P. M.

* * * Tickets covering passage and dinner will be distributed by the Reception Committee, who request that application be made for them as early as Monday, if possible.

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS.

The committee have selected as, all things considered, the best and most convenient hotel headquarters, the United States Hotel on Beach street, directly opposite the Boston and Albany, and only a few steps from the Old Colony and the N. Y. and N. E. R. R. stations. Street cars from the Northern and Eastern R. R. stations, and from steamboat landings, pass the door. The regular rates of \$3.00 per day will be reduced to \$1.50 and \$2.00 per day, according to the location of rooms. The Secretary will furnish certificates entitling members to the reduced rates, on application at his desk at any of the meetings.

BIBLIOTHECAL MUSEUM.

The collection of blanks, catalogues, library devices, etc., belonging to the Association, will be on

exhibition at the General Offices, 32 Hawley street, open from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M., daily.

Members are invited to make these offices their head-quarters during the meetings. Letters to members may be sent to P. O. box 260, Boston, and will be delivered promptly. Extra desks for the use of members are also provided in the Association Offices, and in the intervals between the sessions, receptions, etc., some of the officers will be found there.

Members are specially requested to bring with them and deposit in this Bibliothecal Museum any appliances, blanks, etc., which have not already been sent.

For further information of any kind, apply to the Secretary,

MELVIL DEWEY,

P. O. 260, Boston.

A. L. A. CATALOG.

SUCCESS in our most important coöperative movement would be assured if other librarians would do what has just been done at Worcester by Mr. Green:

"I laid the matter of the A. L. A. Catalog before my Board of Directors last evening, and they listened with evident interest to the presentation of the plan. I was requested to subscribe \$25 in the name of the library to the guarantee fund, and to put the name of the library down for six copies of the work. Four of the directors also wish for copies.

"Mr. J. Everts Greene, editor of the *Spy*, will write about the catalog in that paper in a few days, and announce that we are ready to receive subscriptions for the work at the library.

"It is very important the catalog should be published, and I hope to find a statement in the next number of the JOURNAL that its publication is assured. It seems to me there ought to be a copy of the catalog in every school-house and in every house where there are readers.

"SAMUEL S. GREEN, Librarian."

UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING.

THE eighth monthly meeting of the second year of the Association was held at 8 p. m. on June 6, at the London Institution, Mr. W. E. A. Axon in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed as correctly entered, Mr. James H. Johnson was proposed for membership.

In consequence of the Whitsun holidays, no papers were read.

The Secretary (Mr. H. R. Tedder) explained the arrangements of the Boston Conference, and made a last appeal for names of those who thought of going. A resolution congratulating the A. L. A. on their approaching Conference, and expressing the wishes of the meeting for entire success, was passed unanimously.

Mr. E. B. Nicholson (Secretary of the Metr. Free Libraries Assoc.) explained the action of that body and invited subscribers to join.

Among the donations laid upon the table was a copy of "John Ruskin: a bibliographical biography, by W. E. A. Axon," and Mr. Axon also showed the proof-sheets of Mr. Whitney's Catalogue of the Ticknor Spanish Collection now in the Boston Public Library. Specimens of buckram folios with very elaborate letterings were shown by Mr. Nicholson.

COMMITTEE ON SIZE-NOTATION.

The Committee appointed by the Council of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, "to consider whether the present size-notation of books is entirely satisfactory, and if not, to suggest any more desirable notation" that may be recommended for uniform adoption in the future, have issued a circular of inquiry addressed to librarians and others. The Committee have so far resolved: "(1) That it is desirable to have distinct notations for signatures and for size; (2) That, except in the case of scarce works, it is not necessary to give the signatures, or the measurement of a book in inches, but that it is always desirable to give some idea of its size." The circular asks responses to the following questions:

1. What meaning do you attach, in cataloguing, to such terms as folio, 4to, 8vo, 12mo, etc.?
2. What notation do you use to indicate the size of books?
3. Do you use any notation to indicate the signatures?
4. Do you adopt the designations of post, crown, foolscap, etc., which are given in publishers' advertisements?
5. The following systems (of which a full description accompanies the circular) have been recommended for future use by (1) the American Library Association; (2) Mr. C. Madeley; (3) Mr. B. R. Wheatley. Which do you prefer, and have you any qualifying remarks on any?

6. You are requested to advise generally.

The three scales referred to are:

1. THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION recommends the plan of indicating the size by a nomenclature adapted from a system which is based upon the actual measurement of a large number of books, arranged in groups by experts according to

apparent sizes. The old symbols, 4°, 8°, 12°, etc., are kept only as signature notations, in cases where these are desired. For unusual sizes *sq.* (square), *nar.* (narrow), and *ob.* (oblong) are to be prefixed. For *very exact* size-notation give the outside height in centimeters, and where desired decimal fractions in centimeters, with a small *b* after to signify the height, except when the width measurement is added. The prefixes *b*, *p*, and *t*, show measurement of binding, paper, or type.

[The circular adds: "E (=eighteenmo) may be used instead of S (=sixteenmo), or may be brought in as a distinct symbol with an outside height of 16 cm. (=6.2992 in.). Books from 20 to 40 cm. high may be called sm. Q, Q, and l. Q when of the square form, but O, l. O, and F, or sm. F when of the ordinary form. Books smaller than 20 cm. and of the square form, are marked sq. D, etc." The first is a confusing misapprehension of the A. L. A. report, which suggested that cataloguers desiring to divide 16mos might use E (18mo) for books under 16 cm. high and over 15. As this and the following suggestions have for the most part dropped out of sight in the practical application of the system, the latter should be judged independently of them.—EDS. L. J.]

Symbol formerly used.	Abbreviation for future use.	Outside height in centimeters.
48°	Fe (=forty-eightmo)	10 (=3.9 in.)
32°	Tt (=thirty-two mo)	12.5 (=4.9 in.)
24°	T (=twenty-four mo)	15 (=5.9 in.)
16°	S (=sixteenmo)	17.5 (=6.8 in.)
12°	D (=duodecimo)	20 (=7.8 in.)
8°	O (=octavo)	25 (=9.8 in.)
4°	Q (=quarto)	30 (=11.8 in.)
F	F (=folio)	40 (=15.7 in.)
	F ₃	50 (=19.6 in.)
	F ₆	60 (=23.6 in.)
	&c.	

2. MR. C. MADELEY (Librarian of the Warrington Museum) gives the title of his "Demy" Book-Scale to his method, in which the demy size is taken as a basis. The advantages claimed for the system are (1) simplicity, as it progresses by intervals of 1½ in., or multiples of that; (2) a real and natural basis; (3) no new notation is required; (4) its adaptability both to the commonest cataloguing and the accurate description of rare books. The only arbitrary division is the quarto line, drawn at 12 in., a demy 4° being only 11 in. high. The dimensions of the demy and other papers are taken from Johnson's "Typographia."

Narrow Books.—Breadth less than three-fourths of the height: 48°, 32°, 18°, 12°, or sm. 8°, 8° la. 8°, sm. fo., fo., la. fo. The maximum line for

ordinary octavos is drawn at 9 in. in height, measured by the leaf. The height of a demy duodecimo being $7\frac{1}{2}$ in., the maximum line for 12° is drawn at that point. In the case of old books, sm. 8° may be used instead of 12° . In similar manner the lines for 18° and 32° are laid down, producing a scale with intervals of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. A line for demy 48° is added at $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., at what may be called a "half-interval" below 32° . The height of demy folio is 18 in., which is made the maximum for that denomination, and the space between 9 in. and 18 in. is divided at $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. for large octavo (la. 8°) and at $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. for small folio (sm. fo.), the latter line representing a foolscap size.

Broad Books.—Breadth not less than three-fourths of the height: 64° , 24° , 16° , sm. 4° , la. 4° , la. fo. Beginning at the smallest size, demy 64° falls at 3 in., while 24° corresponds exactly with 32° , and 16° sufficiently so with 18° . The small 4° line is drawn at 9 in., so as just to include that fold of foolscap. Quarto (4°) and large quarto (la. 4°) are limited to 12 in. and 18 in. respectively, while all books above 18 in. in height, whether broad or narrow, are called large folio (la. fo.).

Oblong Books.—When the breadth is greater than the height, the broad scale is used, with oblong (obl.) prefixed.

NARROW BOOKS. Breadth less than three-fourths of height.	Maximum height in inches.		BROAD BOOKS. Breadth not less than three-fourths of height.
		3	64°
48°	$3\frac{3}{4}$		
32°	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	24°
18°	6	6	16°
12° or sm. 8° .	$7\frac{1}{2}$		
8°	9	9	sm. 4°
la. 8°	$10\frac{1}{2}$		
		12	4°
sm. fo.	$13\frac{1}{2}$		
fo.	18	18	la. 4°
la. fo.	above 18		la. fo.

Rarities and Signature Notation.—When it is necessary to give the number of leaves to a signature or the exact size of a book, this information may be supplied within square brackets after the size-symbol, e. g., SHAKESPEARE (W.), Works. London, 1623. sm. fo. [sixes, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$].

3. Mr. B. R. WHEATLEY (Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society) suggests that a system should be adopted, comprising the usual terms hitherto employed, of folio, quarto, octavo, etc., and some of their sub-varieties, as imperial, royal, etc., drawn up from a binder's scale, varying slightly from the actual measurements of papers, so as to embrace small differences in them. For early printed, rare, or curious books, minute details with regard to size might be added without interference with the general system.

Names of sizes.	Approximate Height—Width.	
	Inches.	
Atlas Folio,	about 30	by 22
Imper. Folio,	" 22	" 15
Roy. Folio,	" 20	" $12\frac{1}{2}$
Folio,	" $17\frac{1}{2}$ —18	" 11
Sm. Folio,	" 8—12	" 6—8
Imper. 4to,	" 15	" 11—12
Royal 4to,	" $12\frac{1}{2}$	" 10
4to,	" 10—11	" 8—9
Sm. 4to,	" $7\frac{1}{2}$ —8	" 6
[In Quartos the width is 4-5 the height.]		
Imper. 8vo,	about $10\frac{1}{2}$ —11	" 7— $7\frac{1}{2}$
Roy. 8vo,	" $9\frac{1}{2}$ —10	" 6— $6\frac{1}{2}$
8vo,	" $8\frac{1}{2}$ —9	" $5\frac{1}{2}$ —6
Sm. 8vo [including crown, post, foolscap, etc., and all books in "eights" of the usual 12mo size],	" 7—8	" $4\frac{1}{2}$ —5
12mo,	" $7\frac{1}{2}$	" 5
16mo [small $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet books in "eights"],	" 6	" 4
18mo,	" 6	" 4
24mo,	" 5	" $3\frac{1}{2}$
32mo,	" 4	" $2\frac{1}{2}$
48mo,	" $3\frac{1}{2}$	" 2

It is hoped to have the Committee's report ready in good time for presentation at the approaching Manchester meeting.

THE INDEX SOCIETY.

AT the May meeting of the Council of the Index Society, it was announced that Mr. Solly's "Index to Hereditary Titles in Great Britain" is ready for the press. The scheme for forming a guarantee fund for the publication of an index to the *Gentleman's Magazine* was advanced a stage. The three volumes for the year 1878 are in course of delivery to members of the Society. They are also for sale to non-subscribers at Messrs. Longman's. These are Mr. Wheatley's "What is an Index?" Miss Peacock's "Index of the Names of the Royalists whose Estates were Confiscated during the Commonwealth," and Mr. Gomme's "Index of Municipal Offices, compiled from Appendixes to the First Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Municipal Corporations in England and Wales, 1835."

VICTOR HUGO ON BOOKS AND LIBRARIES.

THERE is a fine passage in *L'Année Terrible* which should appeal to all those who see how great a force popular libraries may become in the education of the people. The glowing rhetoric of the illustrious poet shows the influence of books in the work of civilization, and with prophetic vision foretells the day when the scaffold, war and famine shall be destroyed by the written word. Poetic splendour and lofty idealism penetrate the entire passage, and make it difficult to omit even a line without destroying its force and harmony. The passage is also worth quoting in its entirety as a reminder that the dry and minute details of library economy are but the necessary methods by which the spirit of culture may be made manifest to the masses of the people. Under the heading

À QUI LA FAUTE ?

the poet gives this imaginary—and yet real—conversation :

Tu viens d'incendier la Bibliothèque ?

— Oui.

J'ai mis le feu là.

— Mais c'est un crime inouï,

Crime commis par toi contre toi-même, infâme !

Mais tu viens de tuer le rayon de ton âme !

C'est ton propre flambeau que tu viens de souffler !

Ce que ta rage impie et folle ose brûler,

C'est ton bien, ton trésor, ta dot, ton héritage !

Le livre, hostile au maître, est à ton avantage.

Le livre a toujours pris fait et cause pour toi.

Une bibliothèque est un acte de foi

Des générations ténébreuses encore

Qui rendent dans la nuit témoignage à l'aurore.

Quoi ! dans ce vénérable amas des vérités,

Dans ces chefs-d'œuvre pleins de foudre et de clartés,

Dans ce tombeau des temps devenue repertoire,

Dans les siècles, dans l'homme antique, dans l'histoire.

Dans le passé, leçon qu'épelle l'avenir,

Dans ce qui commença pour ne jamais finir,

Dans les poètes ! quoi, dans ce gouffre des bibles,

Dans le divin monceau des Eschyles terribles,

Des Homères, des Jobs, debout sur l'horizon,

Dans Molière, Voltaire et Kant, dans la raison,

Tu jettes, misérable, une torche enflammée !

De tout l'esprit humain tu fais de la fumée !

As-tu donc oublié que ton libérateur,

C'est le livre ? le livre est là sur la hauteur ;

Il luit ; parce qu'il brille et qu'il les illumine,

Il détruit l'échafaud, la guerre, la famine ;

Il parle ; plus d'esclave et plus de paria.

Ouvre un livre. Platon, Milton, Beccaria.

Lis ces prophètes, Dante, ou Shakspeare, ou Corneille ;

L'âme immense qu'ils ont en eux, en toi s'éveille ;

Ébloui, tu te sens le même homme qu'eux tous ;

Tu deviens en lisant grave, pensif et doux ;

Tu sens dans ton esprit tous ces grands hommes croître ;

Ils t'enseignent ainsi que l'aube éclaire un cloître ;

A mesure qu'il plonge en ton cœur plus avant,

Leur chaud rayon t'apaise et te fait plus vivant ;

Ton âme interrogée est prête à leur répondre ;

Tu te reconnais bon, puis meilleur ; tu sens fondre

Comme la neige au feu, ton orgueil, tes fureurs,

Le mal, les préjugés, les rois, les empereurs !

Car la science en l'homme arrive la première,

Puis vient la liberté. Toute cette lumière,

C'est à toi, comprends donc, et c'est toi qui l'éteins !

Les buts rêvés par toi sont par le livre atteints !

Le livre en ta pensée entre, il défait en elle

Les liens que l'erreur à la vérité mêle,

Car toute conscience est un nœud gordien.

Il est ton médecin, ton guide, ton gardien.

Ta haine, il la guérit ; ta démence, il te l'ôte.

Voilà ce que tu perds, hélas, et par ta faute !

Le livre est ta richesse à toi ! c'est le savoir,

Le droit, la vérité, la vertu, le devoir,

Le progrès, la raison dissipant tout délire.

Et tu détruis cela, toi !

— Je ne sais pas lire.

This offers a good many texts for bibliothecal sermons. One might well be addressed to members of the governing bodies in democratic countries. "It will be necessary to educate our masters," was the sardonic remark of the Rt. Hon. Robert Lowe, after the last extension of the franchise in England. Education must accompany or precede real freedom. Culture is the real enfranchiser, the true liberator of mankind.

Car la science en l'homme arrive la première,
Puis vient la liberté.

W. E. A. AXON.

THE ELEVATOR IN THE WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

THE Elevator which we put into our building recently proves so useful that we should not know how to get along without it.

The space allotted to both the reference and the circulating departments of our library had become wholly occupied, and the problem with us was to obtain more room for books. It would have been expensive to have added to the building, and it occurred to us to utilize the space in a very high French roof and in the basement, by the use of an elevator.

It was remarked that we could conveniently go up and down for books instead of to distant points on the same floor, if we could move rapidly and without subjecting attendants to too much fatigue. The result of our deliberations was to put an elevator into the building, and fit up the French roof to hold additions to the reference department, and a portion of the basement to be used in connection with the circulating library. The elevator and the new rooms have been in use for several months, and we find ourselves managing a library on five floors with great ease and doing the work rapidly.

We use as a motive power the city water. The cost of a round trip, with water at 15 cents 1000 gallons, is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent. The whole cost of the elevator and case was, say, \$1400. No extra assistance is required to run the elevator. Every attendant works it for herself. The car of the elevator traverses, say, forty-five feet.

Some elevators seem to me perfectly safe. I am particularly pleased with an hydraulic elevator made at the shop of the Free Institute of Industrial Science in this city. The movement of the car is perfectly equable, and I cannot understand how there should be any danger in operating the elevator. One of these elevators may be seen in operation in the Bay State House in this city. There are many others here and in Hartford and in other places.

It seems to me that it will often be found economical to use elevators in library buildings when situated in towns where real estate is valuable or where there is room that can be availed of by their use, which without them it would prove impracticable to use.

In making the changes in our building, we took occasion to increase the facilities for putting out fires, by introducing into it a stand-pipe with openings, to which hose is always kept attached, in all of the four stories. The water is always in the pipe and ready for immediate use. We continue also to observe precautions used before, and have an extinguisher and buckets filled with water in convenient places, and adhere inflexibly to the rule that a janitor shall be in the building every minute that no attendant is there. No carelessness in regard to the use of matches or tapers is tolerated in this library. Scrupulous care in regard to a strict observance of all precautions against danger from fire is constantly enjoined and enforced.

SAMUEL S. GREEN, Librarian.

NUMBERING AN AUTHOR'S BOOKS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

A MYSTERIOUS "(Op. 4)" on the title-page of a new volume by the brilliant author of "Erewon" (*Evolution, old and new*, by Samuel Butler (Op. 4) London: Hardwicke and Bogue, 1879) is intended to show that it is the fourth production of the writer, who gives the following reasons for the adoption of the practice, which is one that librarians would be glad to see in general use. On the reverse of the title-page there is a list of Mr. Butler's works (Op. 1, 2, 3), but without dates; it would have been a useful addition to have noted the date of first and last publication in each case.

Mr. Butler says (see Preface, p. 5-6): "Contrary to the advice of my friends, who caution me to avoid all appearance of singularity, I venture

upon introducing a practice, the expediency of which I will submit to the judgment of the reader. It is one which has been adopted by musicians for more than a century—to the great convenience of all who are fond of music—and I observe that within the last few years two such distinguished painters as Mr. Alma-Tadema and Mr. Hubert Herkomer have taken to it. It is a matter for regret that the practice should not have been general at an earlier date, not only among painters and musicians, but also among the people who write books. It consists in signifying the number of a piece of music, picture, or book, by the abbreviation "Op." and the number, whatever it may happen to be.

"No work can be judged intelligently unless not only the author's relations to his surroundings, but also the relation in which the work stands to the life and other works of the author, are understood and borne in mind; nor do I know any way of conveying this information at a glance, comparable to that which I now borrow from musicians. When we see the number against a work of Beethoven, we need ask no further to be informed concerning the general character of the music. The same holds good more or less with all composers. Handel's works were not numbered—not at least his operas and oratorios. Had they been so, the significance of the numbers on "Susanna" and "Theodora" would have been at once apparent, connected as they would have been with the number on Jephthah, Handel's next and last work, in which he emphatically repudiates the influence which, perhaps in a time of self-distrust, he had allowed contemporary German music to exert over him. Many painters have dated their works, but still more have neglected doing so, and some of those have not been a little misconceived in consequence. As for authors, it is unnecessary to go farther back than Lord Beaconsfield, Thackeray, Dickens, and Scott, to feel how much obliged we should have been to any custom that should have compelled them to number their works in the order in which they were written. When we think of Shakspeare, any doubt which might remain as to the advantages of the proposed innovation is felt to disappear.

"My friends, to whom I urged all the above, and more, met me by saying that the practice was doubtless a very good one in the abstract, but that no one was particularly likely to want to know in what order my books had been written. To which I answered that even a bad book which introduced so good a custom would not be without value, though the value might lie in the custom and not in the book itself; whereon, seeing that I was obstinate, they left me, and, interpreting their doing so into at any rate a modified approval of my design, I have carried it into practice."

A LIBRARY RECORDER AND A NEW METHOD OF NUMBERING BACKS.

MR. R. C. WALKER, principal librarian of the Sydney Free Public Library, has invented a simple and ingenious "Library Recorder," by which much time is saved to the public, and much labor to the attendants. Borrowers can tell at sight whether the book wanted is on the shelf; the assistant gets the same information by a glance at the back of the Recorder. The saving of references to the shelves is immense, while the public can be served three or four times as fast. In short, the instrument does away with all needless delay and confusion. We give full details of its construction:—The Recorder is framed in a neat cedar case, 3 feet 2 in. wide by 5 feet high, and 8 in. deep; this contains 5000 tell-tales, or slides. Both on front and back of the slides are pasted printed numbers representing all the books in the Lending Library, exclusive of the specifications of patents, for which another arrangement is provided. The tell-tales for each shelf are divided by inch uprights, and they travel on two brass wires passing horizontally through these uprights. The slides are made of light pine $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, and 3-16 in. thick. When a book is in, the slide rests against the glass front of the Recorder. The backs of the tell-tales, to a depth of 2 in., are only $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide so as to prevent them from being drawn out further than 2 in. at the back of the Recorder, the slides being put into the case by the glass door at the front, which is kept locked, so that no one can interfere with the numbers on the outside. When a book is issued, the tell-tale corresponding is drawn back, and the outside number disappears from the glass front, and shows as a record of issue at the back, which is accessible only to the librarians. When the book is returned the number is pushed in again to the glass. When the library is closed, the case is locked up, so that no interference with the numbers can be made. Mr. Walker has not patented his invention; but he has done a good public service in putting his inventive powers to so practical a use.

Mr. Walker writes our London publishers (Messrs. Trübner & Co.) of another new device:

"We have always found great difficulty in making paper tickets adhere to the back of the books, which no doubt is, in a great measure, due to the sudden changes in this climate, but I see also from the Reports of other Institutions in different parts of the world that the same difficulty occurs. To avoid this labor and trouble I have adopted a simple plan. I have a piece of vellum or parchment, either white or colored, pasted on to the back of the book before the leather cover is

put on, and punch a hole with a No. 14 gun-wad punch in the proper panel of the leather cover before it is pasted down; the numbers are then easily put on by any man with ordinary intelligence, after he has once been shown, with a set of lettering tools, by heating the tool in a candle."

A MACHINE RULER AND CUTTER FOR LIBRARY PURPOSES.

THE tediousness of cutting up catalogue slips with a paper knife or shears having been brought to my notice, I constructed a machine (for which I have obtained "protection") to perform the operation with ease, rapidity and accuracy. This machine I had the honor to exhibit to the Library Association on March 7th.* In brief, it consists of a bare board having a suitable cutting surface, so arranged that a cut can be effected at any desired point of a sheet of paper placed on the bare board. One hand adjusts the paper while the other makes the cut. A self-acting holder comes into operation just before the cut commences, and holds the material operated upon with a force proportional to that employed in making it. The machine can be used for cutting and perforating, and will do ruling in pencil or ink, and may be used for almost any purpose requiring straight lines of perforation, division or ruling, such as the cutting up of slips, the separation or perforation of labels, the ruling of cash or other lines on some of the many forms required in a library. It is of a size that will stand conveniently on an ordinary table, and is always ready to do its work.

H. NOEL WALDEGRAVE.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE SIZES OF BOOKS.

LIBRARY CO. OF PHILADA., 10 March, 1879.

I THINK I can solve the question proposed on p. 61 of v. 4, as to which size of books is the most common.

At present, judging by this library, there are more duodecimos published than octavos; but formerly it was not so. In 1829, when I first recollect the state of this library, there were about 10 0 folios, 1800 quartos, 7000 octavos and 4000 duodecimos. The octavos maintained their preponderance in 1855, when the respective nos. were 13,795 octavos, 11,549 duos, 2691 quartos and 1455 folios. At present there are 22,227 octavos, 25,996 duos, 3664 quartos and 1898 folios.

LLOYD P. SMITH.

* See JOURNAL, p. 87.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

2. RECORD OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

[The extracts made in this department are much condensed, and connecting words are often altered or inserted in order to piece the sentences together.]

A. Library economy, history, and reports.

CLINTON, *Mass.* BIGELOW FREE PUB. LIB. 5th an. report. 8 p. (*In* CLINTON SCH. COM. 29th an. rep.)

Added, 637 v.; total, 7627; issued, 31,776; spent, \$1967.13.

MELROSE, *Mass.* PUB. LIB. 8th an. report. Boston, 1879. 7 p. O.

Statistics for 10 months: added, 298 (part of them, it is said to say, "donated"); total, 3927; issued, 25,458. "The increase in the number of readers in Melrose, and in the number of books read, has always been a matter of surprise. Your trustees anticipated that this increase of circulation would in time ebb as well as flow. . . . The suggestion in last year's report concerning a Reading Club, with one meeting a year for reports, comparisons, and suggestions, has met with approval; the lists of various courses of reading and study are now being procured."

MINNESOTA HIST. SOC. An. report. Minneap., 1879. 24 p. O.

Added, 257 bd. + 449 unbd. v.; total, 7469 bd. + 11,284 unbd.

WILMINGTON INSTITUTE. Reports. Wilm., Del., 1879. 15 p. O.

Added, 668 v.; total, 13,009; issued, 28,814.

WORCESTER, *Mass.* FREE PUB. LIB. 19th an. report. Worc., [1879]. 40 p. O.

Added, 2151 v.; total, 45,155; issued, 132,384 for home use, 30,079 for library use; receipts, \$17,630.43, expenses, \$16,400.51; Sunday, average number of persons, 248; average no. of v. delivered, 48. Mr. Green makes some remarks in favor of coöperative cataloging, describes his arrangements for publishing lists of additions in connection with the Boston Athenæum, and the custom which has grown up of "borrowing from the larger libraries books which our citizens need, but which we cannot buy, or which readers cannot wait to have us purchase."

Y. M. C. A. OF THE CITY OF N. Y. 26th an. report. N. Y., 1879. 104 p. O.

Report of Mr. Pool on the library, p. 38-48. Added, 247 v.; total, 11,624; issued, 18,908. "The lack of fresh material has curtailed the usefulness of the Library. . . . The late W. Niblo has made the Library his residuary legatee. . . . With this liberal foundation, it is hoped the Association can at once proceed rapidly toward the realization of the idea long cherished by those more immediately connected with the Library,—viz.: the formation of a Free Public Library . . . with especial reference to young men, as large as that at Boston."

The beginnings of our public library system [1672-1838]; [by] J. Winsor.—*Literary world*, Apr. 12. 2½ col.

Note on the British Museum and private libraries in London.—*Gentleman's mag.*, Apr. 1 p.

"I should be more cautious in expressing my views, as they run counter to the general feeling in England, did I not know that they were shared by the late G. H. Lewes. To a man engaged in any literary labour, I put the question thus: Is it not easier and cheaper to buy a book than to go to the Museum to consult it? I do not speak of very valuable books of reference, or of any out-of-the-way books. Englishmen, however, who, as Mr. Ruskin observes, are not book-buyers, go to the Museum to refer to works like Strutt's 'Sports and Pastimes,' or Macaulay's 'Essays.' Now, the average time spent on the journey backwards and forwards, and in waiting for the volume, may be assumed to be four hours. You may buy the book for a few shillings, say ten. Will any one, who is not a mere beginner, tell me he cannot earn a good many ten shillings in the time he spends going to the library and returning? And if a man does not wish to keep a book, he can always sell it for about half what he gave for it. We are, however, as a nation, culpably averse from book-buying; and now that Paterfamilias has taken to buying society papers, it almost looks as if matters would grow worse instead of better. I know no sign of British Philistinism so shocking as the kind of books one sees in an average English house; a few volumes of thumbled novels, it may be, two or three cheap and incorrect editions of poets, and three or four score books of an earlier epoch, transmitted from ancestors who, though they were not readers, had more sense of the worth of books than have their descendants. You may take, row by row, the new and stately houses recently built in London, and not in one house in a row will you find enough books to redeem the occupants from the charge of want of culture."—*Gent's mag.*, Apr. 1 p.

Vente de la bibliothèque de M. U. Silvestre de Sacy; par René Delorme.—*Journal officiel*, rep. in *Chron. du journ. gén. de l'impr.*, 3, 10 Mai. 3¼ + ¾ p.

The library of M. de Sacy is also noticed in the *Journal des débats*, 25 Apr., by F. Charnes, and in the *Moniteur*, Apr. 26, by E. Ave.

The Worcester [Eng.] *Free Pub. Lib.*—*Worcester herald*, suppl., Apr. 26. 2 col.

An account of an enthusiastic meeting of about 2000 citizens, who accepted the library act unanimously.

B. Catalogs of libraries.

ASTOR LIBRARY. Periodicals and serials currently received. 1879. 11 + [1] p. D.

ASTOR LIBRARY. Recent accessions, Oct., 1878, Jan., 1879. [Quarterly. N. Y., 1878-79.] 29 + 33 p. D.

BOSTON PUB. LIB. Bulletin, v. 4, no. 2. [Boston.] Apr., 1879. p. 37-72. 1. O.

Contains "a tolerably full list of such separate American genealogies as have been published," and lists of books on "The Indian question," and "Mountain railroads."

BOSTON PUB. LIB. Catalogue of the South Boston Branch. 2d ed. April, 1879. Boston, 1879. 193, (1) p. O.

The literature of printing; a catalogue of the library illustrative of the history and art of typography, calcography, and lithography of R. M. HOE. London, privately printed at the Chiswick press, 1877. [3] + 149 p. D.

With indexes of places and of printers and engravers.

BROOKLINE. SCHOOL COMMITTEE. List of books selected for the use of the pupils. March. Boston, 1879. 32 p. O.

Prepared at the Public Library, and with its book-numbers. 13 classes. A good selection.

GLASGOW READING CLUB. Catalogue of books and periodicals with classified index of subjects, select list of pseudonyms and short chronology of English authors. Glasgow, T. Murray and Son, 1879. 112 p. D.

HARVARD UNIV. LIB. Bulletin no. 12, n. p., June 1, 1879. p. 309-354. O.

Contains Early editions of Spenser, Halliwelliana, the contin. of the Lee mss. and the end of the Sumner col., the Flora of dif. countries, and Lists of apparatus.

ITALY. MINISTERO DELLA PUB. ISTRUZIONE. Cataloghi dei codici orientali di alcune biblioteche d'Italia. Fasc. 1: Bib. Vit. Emanuele, Angelica, e Alessandrina di Roma. Firenze, 1878. 4 + 108 p. 4°. 3.50 lire.

ITALY. SENATO. Catalogo della Biblioteca. Roma, tip. del Senato di Forzani e C., 1879. 568 + 36 p. 8°.

K. UNIVERSITÄTS U. LANDES-BIBLIOTHEK IN STRASSBURG. Katalog: Arabischer Literatur; von Dr. Jul. Euting.

"Carefully as it is executed, it seems to us rather premature. The library has developed wonderfully quickly; but it is too incomplete as yet to require more than a ms. reference-catalogue; for there are few books in the catalogue that one would have to go to Strassburg for. The greater part of the library consists of those books of reference and text which every Arabic scholar has in his own study, and it does not contain many even of these."—*Acad.*, Mar. 22.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF PORTLAND, Oregon. Catalogue. Portland, 1878. 6 + [1] + 174 p. O.

The previous catalog, of 2500 v., was pub. in 1868; this contains 8830 v. 600 cop. printed; cost \$500, which was raised by subscription. Follows chiefly the catalog of the Merc. Lib. of San Francisco. Dictionary without cross-references, without imprints, and with contents. "To comprehend and use this catalogue it is not necessary to first bore through the outer wall of some arbitrary and complex system of classification, within which the catalogue is found in bewildering subdivisions."

MERCANTILE LIB. OF PHILA. Catalogue of books in closed cases, arranged by subjects. Phila., 1878. 77 p. O.

Title-a-liner, with imprints. A classed catalog, with no table of contents, no index, and no running-title of subjects!!

MERCANTILE LIB. OF PHILA. Finding list for novels. Phila., 1878. [2] + 110 p. O.

Pp. 105-7 contain a "List of pseudonyms and names changed by marriage and forms of names not used as headings;" a necessity in a plan in which books are arranged by their headings, and not shelf-marked. The notation used is that explained by Mr. Edmunds in *Lib. Jour.*, 4: 38-40. P. 107-110 contain a useful list of serials,— "August stories," "Beckoning series," "B. O. W. series," and the like.

NETHERLANDS. DEPARTEMENT VAN OORLOG. Catalogus der Bibliotheek. Breda, Broese en Comp. voor rekening van de K. Mil. Acad., 1878. 24 + 599 p. 8°.

Since 1864, when the last catalog was issued, the library has increased from 4500 to 7923. Noticed in *Nijhof's Bibliog. advenaria*, pt. 4, p. 140-1.

PLYMOUTH, Eng. FREE LIBRARY AND NEWS-ROOM. Supplementary index-catalogue, with rules for readers and borrowers, by W. H. K. Wright. Plymouth, 1879. 4 l. + 70 + [1] p. 8°.

Gives "the principal contents of magazines and reviews,"—a novelty.

PEABODY INSTITUTE LIB., Balt. Finding list, Jan., 1879: Reference books, maps [of Maryland only], periodicals and serials. n. p., [1879]. 38 p. l. O.

The books of reference are divided into 18 classes. The sub-arrangement is alphabetical, by authors, so that if one wishes under "Dictionaries of language" to find, for example, a Negro-English dictionary, or all the Dutch dictionaries, one must look through the whole list, 7½ pages.

QUINCY PUB. LIB. Catalogue-supplement no. 1: additions, Sept. 1875-Dec. 31, 1878. Boston, 1879. 56 p. l. O.

"There are a few short explanatory notes, but the long 'notes by the trustees,' which made the main work one of the best of our American catalogues, have been omitted, not because they had proved not to be useful, but because 'the trustees' (a pseudonym under which was concealed, our readers may remember, Mr. C. Francis Adams, jr.) have not had time to prepare them. Nevertheless the supplement has the general appearance of having been prepared under the care of one who steadily kept in mind the purpose of a catalogue in a town library, to furnish as much assistance and stimulus as possible to untrained readers. One good feature has been retained and extended. Under Fiction, the titles of novels are almost always followed by a few explanatory words, as 'Woman-hater [English life, Education of women]', 'York, A., and Lancaster rose [Girl life in England at the present day]', 'Vineta [Eastern Germany. Polish insurrection of 1863]'. Any one who remembers how seldom the titles of novels are anything but a puzzle and a delusion will appreciate the aid given by this simple device to readers who flatter themselves that they can improve their minds by novel-reading, and try to exercise some little judgment in the selection of their amusement.

"'Fiction, Juvenile,' is divided into classes suited to 'Boys 11 to 14,' 'Boys 12 to 16,' 'Boys from 12 upwards,' with similar entries for 'Children' and for 'Girls.' There is one new and entirely original feature—a collection of titles of 'Short stories,' which have appeared in the various periodicals and have not been republished. They can usually be read at one sitting, and are intended to form a selection for the use of those who wish for light reading, but do not care to begin a long book.' Surely the force of condescension can no further go. At the Conference of Librarians in Philadelphia it was considered doubtful whether public libraries ought to have any fiction at all, and for years we have been listening to denunciation of the mental weakness that will not read philosophy and science and history, and persists in calling for 75 per cent. of works of the imagination; and yet here is provision made for the babes for whose intellectual digestion even a novel is too heavy. Is there any lower depth?"—*Nation*, April 17.

QUANTIN, Max. Catalogue de la section départementale de la Bibliothèque d'Auxerre. (*In* SOCIÉTÉ ACAD. DE L'YONNE. 2^e sér., v. 11, 1879.)

"Dans cette section sont réunis les ouvrages d'auteurs nés dans le département ou traitant d'un sujet local. M. Quantin ne s'est pas borné à classer les livres et à en copier le titre; il a ajouté des notes biographiques sur les écrivains."—*Revue pol.*, 5 avr.

RICHTER, Paul Emil. Verzeichniss d. neuen Werke d. Kön. öff. Bibliothek zu Dresden, 1878. Dresden, Burdach, [1879]. 8°. 2 l. + 51 p. 1 m.

For the fifth time one of the officers of the library publishes a list of its accessions at his own expense.

SCHLETTERER, H. M. Katalog d. in d. Kreis- u. Stadtbibliothek, dem städtischen Archive u. d. Bibliothek des Hist. Vereins zu Augsburg befindlichen Musikwerke. Augsburg, Butsch Sohn, 1879. 10 sheets. 8°. 4 m. (50 copies.)
Repub. from the *Monatsheften f. Musikgesch.*

WOBURN PUB. LIB. Class lists, Boston, [1879]. 136 p. 1 O.

17 classes, with divisions. "It was at first attempted to make the letter correspond with the initial letter of the class, so that the letter would at once suggest the class. But this was found difficult to do satisfactorily, from the fact that the same letter begins the title of two or more classes. To use the synonym of the title by which a class is most generally known would bring quite as much confusion into the method as to use letters having no relation to the class."

On printing the British Museum catalogue.—*London Times*, April 15. 1 col.

"The Society of Arts has the provoking but very English quality of never letting drop a subject it has once taken up. . . . The flood of literature which has inundated the Museum shelves and cellars since the reading-room was opened comes rolling on in an ever-widening channel. To have written a book was once to make the author a man of mark in his circle. To have printed nothing will be soon as much a distinction as Lord Castlereagh's unemblazoned coat at the Vienna Congress. If the existing catalogue of the Museum contained every volume a British printing press had ever pro-

duced, the deluge of current literature would make it obsolete in a dozen years. If there is to be a printed catalogue, the Museum catalogue may as well be copied as it is. To keep up with the times a new edition must soon be issued, and the sparse defects of the distant past can, perhaps, be most conveniently supplied at the same time with the innumerable defects of the near future.

"We recognize the expediency and even the necessity of the contemplated publication. For England to amass a huge assemblage of volumes, and for Englishmen to be unable to know whether the collection will be of any help for a particular research without a personal visit, is as absurd as to buy a field without securing access to it. At the same time all these statistics of book collecting and book making induce a feeling rather of melancholy than of exultation. A million and a quarter of books multiplying at the yearly rate of from ten thousand to twenty thousand are as much a cemetery of perished life as a coral reef, and as dangerous to intellectual navigation. An ingenious member of the Library Association made suggestions, at the Oxford Congress, for the endowment of Professorships of Bibliography. Their object would be to furnish guides through the howling wilderness of a great library. The author of the plan dwelt especially on the services the professors would perform in illuminating the hidden recesses of the world of books. The illumination would be yet more useful if it took the form of light-house beacons, warning inexperienced mariners off sunken rocks. Too much reading is as great a danger in modern days as too little. The Society of Arts' projected catalogue reminds us that to the making of books there is no end. It would be still worse if there were no end to the reading of them."

The question of printing the B. M. catalog is also discussed in *Nature*, April 24 (1¼ col.) and by W. E. A. Axon in *Academy*, April 26, 1¼ col.

C. Bibliography.

ARNOLD, T. J. I. Bibliog. van den Biënkorf en het Tableau des différens de la religion. (*In* Anhaangsel op de Geschr. van Philips van Mar-nix van St. Aldegonde, 's Hage, Nijhoff, 1878. 8°.)

L'ART français pendant la guerre de 1870-71 et le Commune. 1. Marius Vachon: La Bibliothèque du Louvre et la Collection bibliog. Mot-teley. Paris, Quantin, 1879. 4 l. + 109 p. 8°. (300 cop.) Fr. 12.50.

Copy no. 1, with 3 copperpl., on parchment; no. 2-16, with 2, on Whatman paper; no. 17-31 with 2, on Chinese paper; no. 32-300, with 1, on Dutch paper.

BIRCH, Walter de Gray, and JENNER, H: Early drawings and illuminations; an introd. to the study of illustrated mss., with a dictionary of subjects in the British Museum. London, Bag-ster, 1879. 63 + [1] + 310 p. O. 12 plates.

CENTENARI, B. L. Tipo italiano, non elzeviriano. Roma, tip. elzevir. nel Minist. delle Finanze, 1879. 70 p. 16°. 2 lire.

Pte 1: L'arte tipog. prima degli Elzevir. 2. Le edizioni elzeviriane. 3. L'arte tipog. ai nostri giorni.

CHADWICK, Jas. R. Index of the gynecological and obstetric literature of all countries for 1877. *n. p., n. d.* p. 425-472. O.

GRACKLAUER, O. Die deutsche Literatur auf dem Gebiete d. Pferdekunde, 1850-79. In 30 Rubriken systemat. zusammengestellt. Lpz., Gracklauer, 1879. 2 l. + 56 p. 8°.

HOUDOV, J. Les imprimeurs lillois; bibliographie des impressions lilloises, 1595 à 1700. Paris, Morgand et Fatout, 1879. 22 + 391 p. + engr. and a chromo. (300 copies.) 25 fr.

Treats of the opinions of the Flemish and the influence of the French conquest by Louis XIV., and of the severe regulation of printing and the book trade in the Netherlands at the time of the Reformation and the modifications introduced by the conquest; gives the history of all the printers of Lille from the end of the 16th century to the Revolution, making use of the rich archives of the city and those of the Plantin Museum at Antwerp; in the bibliography contains the titles of all books printed at Lille from 1595 to 1700, analyzes the chief ones, and gives biographical details of the authors, ending with indexes of titles and authors.

LORENZ, O. Catalogue gén. de la librairie française depuis 1840. T. 7, tome 1 de la table des matières, 1840-75. A-L. 1^{er} fasc. A-Brésil. Paris, Lorenz, 1879. 160 p. O. 60 fr. for the 2 v.

To fill 6 fasc. = 2 v., the last fasc. to appear early in 1880.

MAZZUCHELLI, Conte GiamMaria. Castiglione (Baldassarre); pub. da Enrico Narducci. Estr. dal giorn. Il Buonarrati, v. 12, oct. 1877-78. Roma, tip. delle Sci. math., 1879. 34 p. 4°.

A descendant of Mazzuchelli presented to the Vatican in 1861 25 v. of his ancestor's mss., of which Narducci gave an account in *Giornale arcadico*, 198: 1-67. Only two volumes of the "Scrittori d'Italia," of which the present article was to have formed a part, were ever published, Paris, 1753-63, f°, containing Abano-Bucciola. Narducci has carefully revised and completed the article Castiglione. Possibly other parts of the great work will follow.

MIGNE, J. P. Indices generales et speciales Patrologie Latinae, alphabetice, chronol., statist., synthet., analog., theolog., log., hierarch., bibliog., biog., etc., concinnati. Tom. 2. Parisiis Garnier fratr., 1879. 682 p. l. O. (Tom. 219 of the Patrol. Lat.)

MOSCHKAU, Alf. Friederike Brion von Sessenheim; ein Beitrag zur Friederiken-Literatur. Lpz., Senf, 1879. 2 l. + 22 p. 8°. 60 m.

SAYCE, M. A. Babylonische Literatur; Vorträge, ins Deutsche übertr. v. K. Friederici. Lpz., Schulze, 1878. 56 p. l. 8°. 2 m.

Describes the Babylonish-Assyrian libraries.

TRÜBNER & Co. Bibliotheca Brasiliica; anc. and mod. books rel. to the Empire and the neighboring states. London, 1879. 54 p. O.

Trübner has also issued lately catalogs on Portugal (8 and 8 p.); Portuguese language (15 p.); Dom João IV. (8 p.); vines and wines (4 p.).

Les centennaires de Voltaire et de Rousseau; aperçu bibliog. par L. Mohr: Voltaire.—*Bibliog. der Schweiz*, 9: 19-26; Rousseau, 9: 54-57.

Fictitious names in literature; by Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie.—*Proof sheet*; reprinted in *Bookworm*, June, 1879. 8½ p.

An introduction of 1½ p., followed by a list of 510 pseudonyms, each accompanied in parallel columns by the real name and the title of a representative work. The writer seems to regard it as an advantage that "but one fictitious name has been given for each author named."

Notes bibliog. sur le voyage de Louis XVI. et de sa famille à Varennes; [par] B. de F.—*Polybiblion*, Mar., Apr., May, 4½ + 3½ + 4 p.

Shakespeare in de Nederlandsche letterkunde en of het Nederlandsch tooneel, bibliog. overzicht; door Th. J. I. Arnold.—*Bibliog. adversaria*, p. 97-132.

"A very careful and valuable work."—*Petzholdt*.

Zur Tiro-Litteratur; [von] P. Mitzschke.—*N. Anzeiger*, May. 2¼ p.

THE Folk-Lore Society has in preparation "The bibliography of folk-lore"; by James Satchell.

THE Belgian Société Bibliographique has offered a prize for the best complete systematic bibliography of works published from 1830 to 1880, on the history of Belgium from the earliest times to the death of Leopold I. The society considers that the chief merit of such a work must lie in a judicious and scientific classification, which shall give the enquirer as quickly as possible the materials he needs, whatever the special point he is engaged upon. For such an object the society would do well to add the phrase "with an index" to its requirements.—*Nation*, May 8.

M. MEZHOF has been occupied for four years in the composition of a general bibliographical index to Russian periodical literature, from the origin of Russian journalism to 1855. It contains references to nearly 2000 separate articles. The entire work will extend to ten large volumes. A still more remarkable work is advertised in the newspapers as being in course of publication under the title of *Leviathan*. The author, M. Smirnov, proposes to publish an index in one volume, and to include in it, over and above, a history of journalism, a biography of the writers, and a chrestomathy. One can hardly conjecture what may be the bulk of M. Smirnov's volume!—*Acad.*, Feb. 8.

DR. ELLIOTT COUES'S Bibliographical appendix to his "Birds of the Colorado Valley" has proved the occasion of one of the highest compliments paid of recent years to American science. A memorial has been addressed to him, signed by Professor Flower, Huxley, Darwin, Mivart, Wallace, Gould, Slater, Guenther, Newton, and numerous other eminent English zoologists, declaring his special fitness to undertake a complete Bibliography of Ornithology, and urging the importance—the indispensableness, in fact—of his visiting the older European libraries in order, for the non-American

portion, to consult every work mentioned at first hand. They express the hope that the same official liberality which has permitted Dr. Coues to remain in Washington for the prosecution of his bibliographical labors, will grant him leave of absence and provide the means for carrying out the wishes of the memorialists; and they promise him a warm welcome to England and every assistance in their power. Such a call ought to be irresistible, and we have every reason to believe that it will be heeded. — *Nation*, June 12.

D. Indexes.

THORNTON, J: Wingate. Index to persons and places mentioned in Hutchinson's Massachusetts (v. 1, 2, Bost., 1795, v. 3, Lond., 1828); corrected by C. L. Woodward. N. Y., 1879. 15 p. O.

PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAMES L. WHITNEY.

This department of the JOURNAL will contain the latest discoveries in regard to the authors of anonymous and pseudonymous books. Contributions are invited from all interested in making this list as complete and valuable as possible.

PSEUDONYMS.

E. W. A.—"Heart's delight" (N. Y., 1879, G. W. Carleton & Co.). Ellen W. Allderdice.

Micah Balwhidder.—"Annals of the parish . . . during the ministry of Micah Balwhidder. Written by himself" (2d ed. Edinb. for W. Blackwood, 1822). John Galt.

Captain B. Barnacle.—"Leaves from an old log. Péhe Nú-e, the tiger whale of the Pacific" (Boston, D. Lothrop & Co., 1877). Charles M. Newell.

Barnwell.—"Game fish of the northern states of America, and British Provinces" (N. Y., Carleton, 1862). Robert Barnwell Roosevelt.

Belarius of Cymbeline.—"The first of a series of a work (in six numbers) in favor of the constitutionality of a national bank. Part 1" (Washington, L. Towers & Co., 1862). Estwick Evans.

Solomon Bell.—"Tales of travel in the north of Europe," "Tales of travel west of the Mississippi" (B., Gray and Bowen, 1830, 31). The author was William J. Snelling, who published the following anonymously: "A brief and impartial history of the life and actions of Andrew Jackson, president of the U. S. By a free man" (B., Stimpson and Clapp, 1831). "Tales of the Northwest; or sketches of Indian life and character. By a resident beyond the frontier" (B., Hilliard, Gray, Little and Wilkins, 1830). "Truth; a New Year's gift for scribblers" (B., S. Foster, 1831). "Truth,

a gift for scribblers." B., for the author, 1831. Same. 2d ed. B., B. B. Mussey, 1832. This last was not published anonymously. N.

Juan J. Ben Ezra.—"The coming of the Messiah in glory and majesty. Translated from the Spanish of Juan J. Ben Ezra, with a preliminary discourse by Edward Irving" (L., L. B. Seeley and Son, 1827, 2 v.). Manuel Lacunza.

Gypsy.—"A marked life, or the autobiography of a clairvoyant" (L., 1879, Sampson Low). Mrs. Grace Courtland.

Elsie Hay.—"A mere adventurer" (Phil., 1879, J. B. Lippincott & Co.). Fanny Andrews. The author's name is on the back of the title-page, also affixed to the preface.

Nikolai Stchedrin.—In the Advocates' Library Catalogue is the following: Stchedrin (). Tchinovnicks; sketches of provincial life from the memoirs of the retired conseiller de Cour Stchedrin. Translated, with notes, from the Russian, by Frederic Aston (L., 1861). Nikolai Stchedrin is the pseudonym of N. Saltikoff, a popular Russian writer.

ANONYMOUS WORKS.

An American family in Paris.—(N. Y. Hurd & Houghton, 1869). Miss Anna E. Ticknor.

Cousin Stella; or, conflict, a novel.—1859. Mrs. C. Jenkin. *Confessions of an old bachelor*.—E. Carrington.—*Olphar Hamst, in Notes and Queries*.

Memorial of Edward B. Dalton, M. D.—(N. Y., 1872.) The author is John Call Dalton, M. D.

The Puritan and Quaker.—(N. Y., 1879. G. P. Putnam's Sons). Rebecca Gibbons Beach, of New Haven.

That husband of mine.—Mrs. Mary Andrews Denison acknowledges the authorship of this work on the title-page of "Erin Go Bragh!" recently published by her.

NOTES.

Rev. Henry Christmas (b. 1811, d. 1868), a graduate of the University of Cambridge, and author of a considerable number of works, towards the close of his life, in 1866, for domestic reasons, changed his name, by a public deed duly registered, from Christmas to Noel-Fearn. There is a considerable amount of confusion respecting him in various publications, some indexing him as Christmas and some as Noel-Fearn.—*Notes and Queries*.

Several of the titles found above are taken from the Catalogue of authors of the Library of Congress now in course of printing.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

EDITED BY MELVIL DEWEY.

To save space, the question which almost invariably gives rise to the note is omitted. Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be specially welcome. Note the worthlessness as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.

BINDING THIN BOOKS TOGETHER.—We are trying the experiment of binding three numbers of the Franklin Square Library in one volume, with sheep back and paper sides, as we bind all our paper-covered novels, unless they are very thick. The binding costs 20 cts. at Case, Lockwood & Brainard's. We bind three or four stories of the Half-hour Series together in half sheep, with cloth sides, like our other books. Our subscribers will take the stories home bound in this way, when they would think them too insignificant to read separately.

C. M. HEWINS.

CASE FOR LOOSE NUMBERS OF PERIODICALS.—I have seen in some libraries the loose parts of magazines and periodicals, lying on the shelves, gradually becoming almost unfit for binding, through the accumulation of dust and the turning up of corners, awaiting the end of the 6 or 12 months necessary to complete the volume before being bound. Mr. Cowell, of the Liverpool Pub. Lib., has a "box-case" covered with cloth, lettered, etc., almost representing an ordinary book when placed on the shelf. This box stands upright and has an overlapping lid which holds the top half side of the box, the latter being hinged, so that it will fall over when the lid is raised. This, in my opinion, is as good, if not better, than anything I have yet seen. If the subject has received the attention from librarians which it fully deserves, I am sure there are more than myself would be glad to hear of any rival plans in vogue.

Liverpool.

W. M.

CONTAGION THROUGH LIBRARIES.—Chicago has been agitated over the possible spread of contagion through books from public libraries. Mr. Poole was interviewed on the subject (*Chicago Times*, May 24th), and states that he has corresponded widely with library authorities and has found no trace of the spread of disease in this way. "There is a possibility of such a danger, but I think the real danger is infinitesimally small. There may be a possibility that a person may be struck by lightning in February, but I never heard of such a case and do not worry about it." He would respect the suspicion of danger, and suggests that

the Commissioner of Health notify the library of houses where contagious diseases exist, and that the library refuse to deliver books for them or to receive books thence unless fumigated. The Board are discussing the question. Mr. Poole will read a paper on the subject before the Boston Conference. The subject was briefly discussed at the New York Conference (*JOURNAL*, v. 2, p. 23), but no librarian had any evidence of danger from this source.

EMBOSSING STAMPS.—We have given up their use here for some years, finding that (1) The impression becomes quite obliterated through the pressure of re-binding. (2) In plates, the part stamped often comes out bodily after some wear. (3) The impression is easily obliterated, and (4) it is much more inconvenient in use than the hand-stamp, especially in stamping large illustrated books.

Guildhall Library (London).

LIBRARIES WITHOUT FICTION.—Some of the librarians could hardly believe in the ultra views represented by our library [Friends' Free Library, Germantown, Pa.], but the continued growth and increasing interest in it prove at least its feasibility. With 9000 v. we have 1200 readers and an annual loss of about 12 v.

WILLIAM KITE.

[See *JOURNAL*, 1: 277 for friend Kite's article.]

LINE TO A VOLUME.—A. W. Tyler, at the Johns Hopkins Univ., changed to the method of making entries recommended on p. 317¹⁷, v. 1. After a year's trial of it, he writes, "Nothing but a distinct and positive direction from superior authorities would now induce me to use the old form of accession book, in which a set or lot is given an accession number."

PLACE OF DATE.—If initials are used for large towns—like L. for London and P. for Paris—in cataloguing, and the name of the publisher comes immediately after, instead of being separated from the initial by the date of publication, the whole will read like the name of the publisher, e. g., L. Bohn, P. Hachette. I put it L., 1877, Bohn.

H. P. JAMES.

REPRODUCING MISSING PAGES.—Cannot the co-operative principle be extended to supplying missing title-pages of rare books? This library, e. g., has a copy of Increase Mather's "Illustrations Providences": Boston, 1684,—the title lacking. Doubtless other libraries and individuals have the same work, in the same condition. If the expense of reproducing the title by photolithograph process could be divided among several libraries, it would place a fac-simile of the title within reach of those who could not afford the whole expense.

E. W. HALL.

Colby University Library.

GENERAL NOTES.

UNITED STATES.

BOSTON ATHENÆUM.—The amount to be received for the use of the library from the bequest of the late Mr. W. B. Howes, of Beverly, Mass., is \$150,000. The will set aside "\$15,000 more for each completed year that I may live after the date of this instrument," but singularly enough it was not dated. The legacy is specifically for library purposes only, and not for fine art purposes. "I do not mean to disparage the fine arts," says the will, "but it is unfortunately easy to expend large sums in works of art without any adequate results." Mr. Howes also gave \$25,000 to the Essex Institute, Salem, and \$10,000 to the Salem Athenæum. The largest gifts to the Athenæum previously have been, in 1821, Mr. James Perkins's mansion-house, valued at \$20,000; \$25,000 from Mr. John Bromfield in 1846; and \$20,000 from Mr. George Bemis, received in the present year. Mr. Cutter is to be congratulated on such practical acknowledgment of successful administration as these last bequests, and so wide is the influence of his library as a centre of library progress that these benefactions are really of national importance.

CINCINNATI PUB. LIB.: A NEWSBOY'S BEQUEST.—The middle of May Mr. Vickers received a note signed John King, stating that the writer would present to the library, if desired, his collection of a thousand books. A visit was made to the place named,—the old museum building in Third st., occupied by something like fifty families,—and here, in a narrow back room with a single window, was found, packed in trunks and boxes and almost filling the room, a collection of nearly 2500 volumes, a private library of very wide range and of much better average than the most. They were the property of John King, a cripple who earned his living and bought his books by selling newspapers on North st. King, now Secretary of the Newsboys' Union, is 39 years old, and well known to Cincinnati people. His life is a romantic story of sickness and repeated misfortune overcome by persistent pluck. His passion for books was started while he was bedridden for five years, when 20 years of age. For 10 years he has bent every energy to collecting these books, buying whenever he could buy a good book cheap, reading some and keeping others for a "big read" at the close of his life. Lately he had begun to worry about a possible loss by fire, and meaning to give all his books to the Public Library at his death, he decided it was after all safer to give them now, except a couple of hundred volumes which he reserves for present reading. The only condition was that his pencil marginal

notes should be erased before offering the books for public reading. Mr. Vickers pronounces the books, which are now being catalogued, a valuable acquisition. A tablet in the library and a book-plate in the books should tell briefly the story of this remarkable life.

A TRENTON (N. J.) BENEFACTION.—Chas. Skelton, M. D., died recently in Trenton, N. J., leaving his library and book-cases for the use of the teachers and pupils of the public schools of Trenton, and of the apprentices and mechanics of the city. His real estate was also given to the trustees of the public schools, the income to be expended in the purchase of books for the library. The will sets forth that "truth is always preferable to falsehood;" that "life is too earnest and time too precious to be wasted on fictions that give no knowledge;" and furthermore that "a single great practical truth is of more value than all the fictions ever invented by novelists." It directs, therefore, that none of the money given by him shall be expended in purchasing novels; but that the books bought for the library shall consist of "works and treatises on the arts and sciences, especially on mechanics, engineering, mathematics, astronomy, geography, chemistry, natural philosophy, architecture, history, travels, and biography." No part of the real estate devised shall ever be used or let for the purpose of manufacturing or selling intoxicating beverages, or tobacco in any of its forms. Dr. Skelton was a self-made man of remarkable career. He began life as a farmer and quarryman, and inherited from his father only the care of a large family. He became a shoe-maker, reading medicine meanwhile, and after some years saved money enough to go through Jefferson Medical College. Returning to Trenton, he opened a double shop, with an apothecary's stock on one side and a stock of ladies' shoes on the other. This small shop-keeping he continued, meanwhile becoming the first superintendent of schools of the city, member of Congress for his district, and a writer on science. When the romance of public libraries comes to be written, here is one of the chapters.

We have received "A convivial poem read before the ΨΥ Association of Philadelphia, May 7, 1879, by Jos. R. Walter," of the Wilmington Institute and A. L. A.

THE Boston Public Library now makes regular delivery, on call of readers by card, at Deer Island, in the harbor, where the city institutions are, at thirteen engine-houses, the fire-boat, and the Navy Yard.

MR. C. B. TILLINGHAST, of the Boston *Journal*, has been appointed by Secretary Dickinson Librarian of the Massachusetts State Library. Mr.

Tillinghast is known as an able journalist, but is not understood to have had library experience.

WE are glad to note that Mr. Noyes has been instructed by the Directors of the Brooklyn Library to go ahead as fast as possible from this date until his catalogue is completed, which, however, he thinks will not be before the beginning of '80.

THE Providence Pub. Lib. delivered in the week ending June 6, 1879, 1679; daily average, 279. 1000 more books were issued in May this year than in May last year. Within 16 mo. from opening, the no. of vols. has increased 50 per cent. It is now 15,548.

It is stated as on the authority of Mr. Spofford that the new chairman of the Senate committee on the library, Mr. Voorhees, favors the plan of a separate building for the library, and fully realizes the urgent necessity for speedy action by Congress in the matter. It is thought that during the long session satisfactory plans will be agreed upon and ample appropriations will be made.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—A new and much improved Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum is in course of publication, suggested, states the *Athenæum*, by the present Principal Librarian and Secretary, and issued by order of the Trustees to supply a comprehensive and trustworthy guide for the general visitor to the Museum. It will indicate the most important and characteristic objects in each department, and supply much information which the old Synopsis did not include.

LONDON.—It is proposed to form "a large free circulating library for the benefit of the young women employed in houses of business, factories, etc.; to be well stocked with pure, interesting and instructive literature to counteract the pernicious influence of books and periodicals which are being so widely disseminated among our population."

PURE LITERATURE SOCIETY.—This association celebrated its 25th anniversary May 28th, by a *conversazione* at the Westminster Palace Hotel. There was a large display of the periodicals, pictures, diagrams, and other publications recommended and circulated by the society. Since its foundation in 1854, the operations of the society have steadily advanced. A hundred magazine associations and 1200 annual subscribers are supplied with monthly parcels from the 42 periodicals deemed most worthy of commendation.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY.—"Mr. Cox, the respected Bodleian librarian," writes a correspondent of the *Athenæum*, May 10, "has been entirely laid by for the last ten days or so by a sharp attack of illness. He is now, I am glad to say, fairly on the way to

recovery, and will no doubt before long be able to resume work. How heavy that work is all who have ever spent any time in the library will know, and the pressure is now increased by the additional business connected with the proposed Subject Catalogue. This is already in hand, and it is abundantly clear that the period of three years assigned for its completion is absurdly short and really unfair to the overworked staff. Indeed, apart from this extra task, the numbers of the latter must before long be increased. No library elsewhere of anything like the same size has so small a number of responsible officials, and it is not too much to say that each at least of the great departments of literature should be represented by a specially qualified person."

LONDON LIBRARY.—The annual general meeting was held May 29th, Lord Houghton in the chair. The annual report shows decided progress. The society loses by the death and withdrawal of members to the amount of £357, and gains £1333 by new subscriptions. The additions amount to 2491 v. and 160 pamphlets. £898 was expended for books; volumes circulated, 80,420. After the adoption of the report, the meeting was made special for the consideration of an important proposal made by the committee of management, regarding the purchase of the house and premises. At present these are held on a lease which expires in 1887. The London Library has now existed for nearly 40 years, and has occupied these premises for 35 years; it has collected nearly 90,000 volumes, and after such success and with so large an accumulated property, the Society may reasonably endeavour to establish itself on a more permanent basis. The Committee ascertained on what terms the freehold of the house and premises may be acquired, and summoned the special general meeting of the members of the library to determine whether they will authorize the purchase. Lord Houghton moved, and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone seconded, the adoption of the report. The Right Hon. A. S. Ayrton criticised the plan proposed. The resolutions embodying the scheme of purchase were passed, with an addition made on the proposition of Mr. H. H. Maude.

WORCESTER.—Contrary to all expectation, the "Public Libraries Acts" were unanimously adopted, by the rate-payers of Worcester on April 23, at a largely attended meeting. On a previous occasion the attempt to put the Acts into operation was defeated, and on the Wednesday an opposition was expected, and all arrangements were made for taking a poll; but when the resolution was put to the meeting, not a single hand was held up against it. The chair was taken by the Mayor, who was sup-

ported by the members for the city as well as by the most influential of the citizens. The following resolution was moved by Canon Barry: "That the Public Libraries Act, of 1855, and the Acts amending and extending the same, ought to be adopted for the City of Worcester, and that the same be adopted accordingly." In the course of an eloquent speech the reverend gentleman spoke in favor of the introduction of fiction in public libraries, saying he was not ashamed to say, although he was a tolerably strong worker, that there was nothing he enjoyed so much as a good work of light literature. He knew of no luxury which was more thorough and more delightful; and if that was the case with himself, who had chiefly to work with his head, he fancied it was still more the case with his fellow-citizens who had to work with their hands. The resolution was seconded by Alderman Dingle and carried unanimously. Mr. Hill, M. P., proposed, and Mr. Allcroft, M. P., seconded, a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, which was also carried unanimously. Subscriptions to the amount of £4600 are already promised, including £500 from Messrs. Hill & Allcroft, the members for the city, £500 each from Mr. J. D. Perrins, Mr. F. Corbett, and Mr. C. W. Lea, and £200 from the Mayor (Mr. W. Holland). The corporation will find the necessary site, and therefore Worcester folk may be congratulated on the good prospect they have before them. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Downes, who has been indefatigable as Secretary to the Committee. J: B. B.

JUVENILE READING-ROOM.—An effort has been made at certain branches of the Manchester Free Library to encourage juvenile readers by providing for them a separate room and placing before them books of a suitable character, such as historical and biographical works, travels, healthy fiction, etc. The *Manchester Guardian* states that at the Ancoats branch the number of young readers has averaged about 150 per evening through the winter, and at the Chorlton Library the average number has been about 230, reaching 260 on Sunday evenings. It is proposed to extend the system.

WE regret to note the death of Mr. Trenham Reek, Registrar of the Royal School of Mines, and librarian of its valuable library.

WE are promised a sketch of the late Dr. Cristadoro, of Manchester, by his friend and former associate, Mr. W: E. A. Axon.

AT the last meeting of the Derby Town Council, it was stated that the magnificent new Free Library, the gift of Mr. M. Bass, M. P., to the town, would be ready for opening early this month (June).

MR. HENRY B. WHEATLEY, the energetic secretary of the Index Society, is at work upon an

entirely new life of Evelyn, for the new edition of Evelyn's Diary, uniform with the Rev. Mynors Bright's edition of Pepys's Diary, to be published by Messrs. Bickers & Son in October.

FRANCE.

COMMUNAL SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—There are at present in France 20,000 communal school libraries, which own some 2,000,000 books in all. They lent out last year no fewer than 1,350,000 books. The Minister of Public Instruction proposes to ask the Chamber of Deputies to grant an additional credit for the maintenance of these libraries, and to enable new ones to be opened.

A HALL is to be set apart for photographers in the Paris National Library, like the one already established at the British Museum, where rare books, engravings, manuscripts, etc., may be reproduced.

ITALY.

THE VATICAN LIBRARY.—Monsignor Alfonso Capececiatro has been appointed Prefect of the Vatican Library, in the place of Card. Pecci, recently raised to the cardinalate by his brother the Pope. Monsignor Capececiatro belongs to a very distinguished Neapolitan family, is a man of great learning, and is well known as the author of the "*Storia di San Peer Damiano e del suo tempo*"; he has also published a work on Cardinal Newman. At the time of the last Council the new Prefect wrote a pamphlet, which, on account of its liberal views, was not approved of by the Curia; and it is to be hoped that the same liberal tendency may be displayed in arrangements to make the literary treasures of the Vatican more accessible than has been the custom.

BIBLIOTECA VITTORIO EMANUELE, ROME.—This library, which, with the Casanatense, now contains about 400,000 volumes, will shortly be closed for four or five months, with a view to making extensive alterations in the classification of the books, and to facilitate the compilation of the general alphabetical catalogue and the shelf-list prescribed by the regulations of Italian public libraries referred to in Count Balzani's paper on the subject.

THE library of the Italian Senate has a very remarkable collection of the local statutes familiar to students of Italian history, which is mainly due to the exertions of Signor Menozzi, the sub-librarian. We learn from the recently published new edition of the catalogue that this collection now includes no less than 1067 statutes, or volumes containing them, relating to 443 localities. The library possesses a few mss.

Life of Alexander Hamilton.

A History of the Republic of the United States of America, as traced in his Writings and in those of his Contemporaries. By JOHN C. HAMILTON. *Fourth Edition.* Illustrated with numerous Portraits. 7 vols., 8vo, \$25.00.

These seven volumes present to us the life of Alexander Hamilton, with full particulars of its events and service, from his arrival in New York from his birthplace in the Antilles in the Autumn of 1772, when in his fifteenth year, to his death in 1804. With the numerous portraits of celebrated men, and the occasional new notes, and the improved print and paper, this edition has great value, and from its intrinsic worth, as well as from the present aspect of our national affairs, it ought to lead to a wide and thorough study of the career and character of its hero.—*New York Times.*

The 4444 pages contained in the seven volumes are a full biography of the man, personal, political and philosophical; enriched by ample quotations from his own writings and from those of his contemporaries and critics. Every question moot in his time finds a place, with the conflicting opinions entertained and arguments made. All the leading men of the time are parties to the record, and portraits are given of fifty-seven; among them Talleyrand, Lafayette, Kosciuszko, Count de Grasse, Baron de Kalb, Rochambeau, Baron de Steuben, Timothy Pickering, Elias Boudinot, John Dickinson, and George and William Washington. There are an infinity of

personal anecdotes and details which enliven pages otherwise heavy by reason of their discussions of constitutional questions, finance and similar topics; and there is a good index. The work not only supersedes all other biographies of Hamilton, but takes the same shelf with Randall's Jefferson, and will always be consulted for the light it sheds upon the biography, the history and the political character of the country.—*Philadelphia North American.*

Hamilton was the first financier and master of statecraft of his time. He served the country well in war, and dimmed the lustre of his own renown as a soldier by his pre-eminent abilities in peace. He saved the honor of the States by funding and paying their debts. He established a Treasury system which, in its most important features, has come down to the present day unaltered. Above all, he conferred upon the General Government, through his strenuous exertions in the *Federalist* and in the Convention, those sovereign powers without which it must inevitably have fallen in pieces long since. He is as truly one of the Fathers of our country as Washington, or Jay, or Adams. Let us not fail to reverence his memory.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Library Notes.

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Mr. Russell has evidently gone through the richest fields of literature, and in this volume he has gathered its finest fruits. On the thread of essays on Insufficiency, Extremes, Disguises, Standards, Rewards, Limits, Incongruity, Mutations, Paradoxes, Contrasts, Types, Conduct, and Religion, he has strung with excellent skill and taste a multitude of pithy and thoughtful extracts from a host of writers. A full index puts all this rich variety at the instant service of the reader.

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One of those books to which one returns with zest.—*New York Observer.*

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Index Medicus

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If it shall prove successful, we shall have good reason to form a higher estimate of medical scholarship in this country than has hitherto been entertained.—ALFRED STILLÉ.

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